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Du Chaillu, Paul Belloni

RECENT

REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES

IN

CENTRAL AFRICA,

BY THE CELEBRATED AFRICAN EXPLORER,

M. DE CHALLUE.

WITH A FULL DESCRIPTION

OF

AN EXTRAORDINARY RACE OF PEOPLE,

SUPPOSED TO BE

THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND THE HUMAN,

Discovered by him in the Deepest Recesses of that most Mysterious Region.

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INTRODUCTORY.

BEFORE entering on the subject, which has latterly been so interesting to the civilized world it may be of some consequence to the majority of our readers to glance for a moment, at the history of Africa, and the position that quarter of the world has occupied in the community of nations.

By common consent, this section of the universe, from the details of all travellers, both ancient and modern, abounds in all that can serve both the necessities and business of the human family. Her vast and interminable forests which have rarely been trodden by the feet of the white man, produce the most precious woods in the greatest quantities. Her Flora is the richest of any yet known, and the fervid heats of that tropical climate bring to speedy perfection, the most delicious fruits, but the lion, tiger and elephant are undisputed masters of these splendid tracts;—the deadly miasmia, which exhaled from the swamps is fatal to the European, and the savage character of the inhabitants, present an almost insuperable impediment to the enterprize of the settler;—and saving the researches of some recent French and German travellers, the country remains as little known, as before the advent of Christ.

The descriptions left by the ancient Geographers, have been accurately verified by the narrators of modern tourists; and the position of the African has apparently undergone as little change, and Africa is to the polished European, the same as to the haughty and luxurious Roman.

Portugal, though possessing a small territory, was in the 15th

350055

century famed for her maritime discoveries, and opened what had been since the Christian era, the gates of a hermetically sealed country, and her flag floated over a part of India, and a small portion of Africa; the slave trade, which all the nations of Christendom abetted and openly encouraged, gave clearer notions of that terra incognita, but still the interior had not been explored, and the slaves, who peopled the West India islands, were so ignorant and brought such confused accounts of their native land, that the traders were satisfied with the profits accruing from their traffic, and prosecuted no farther inquiries. Still some imformation was gained, and the labors of Mungo Park, and the brothers Lander, who travelled in 1830, drew the attention of the savans of Christendom to Africa; and every thing concerning that partof the globe was read with the keenest interest. England had also acquired some territory in Africa, and the flag of St George floats over Cape Castle. This has since become more interesting as it contains the ashes of the gifted and unfortunate L. E. L.

The exertions of the American colonization society, and the abolition of the slave trade in all the British colonies acted as powerful stimuli to explore the sources of the Niger and the other vast rivers watering the interior; in addition to these advances the English government was exceedingly desirous of opening commercial relations with some of the African tribes, and with her usual sagacity stationed consuls at every accessible spot, with instructions to send minute and accurate reports of the country, its manufactures, inhabitants, and above all, the mineral, animal, and vegetable products, and in the course of a few years, much valuable information was obtained. These inquiries were seconded by religious zeal, and bands of the most devoted missionaries eagerly quitted "their homes, altars, fires, and their native land," to convert and instruct the heathen, who sat in the shadows of darkness; the church of Scotland, sent out some missionaries, and an organization was formed at Rome, the members of which took vows for the conversion of the negroes to Christianity; and the Baptists and Methodists supported teachers, ministers and schools at Monrovia.

DE CHALLUE'S

RECENT REMARKABLE

DISCOVERIES IN AFRICA.

From earliest boyhood, I had a great love for travel, and devoured all the books on that subject that fell in my way; I remember particularly the voyages of Cook, and Dampier, and the travels of Le Vaillant; this last had more fascination than the others; he wrote about lions, tigers, elephants and camel leopards, and when I found myself at the age of twenty one, with youth, health, and a well lined purse, I determined to travel; but whither to wend my way was the question; many had written about France, Italy, Spain and Germany; and nearly every third man had seen some, if not all of those countries none however except one daring fellow had chased the elephant, and I determined, that I would go, and do likewise, and beard the lion in his den.

My resolution was speedily taken and I at once engaged a passage in a large and handsome vessel bound for the cape of Good Hope, where I arrived after a very monotonous voyage, presenting nothing worthy of record, not even a man overboard. The capital of that portion of the British African possession presents no very striking features, as it is only a reproduction of Anglo Saxon life, adapted to the tropics; and as I was anxious at once to commence my sporting life, I signified to the governor, to whom I had been particularly recommended, that I should like some letters of introduction, his excellency smiled, and said "Gordon Cumming has

infected you with his mania, well, I suppose you must go, and see what Meinheer Von Kemp, can do; and I will give you a letter."

The following day after the purchase of two stout black horses, and enlisting the services of a half breed Hottentot, I started;—Jan, for such was the name of my squire, deserves at least a few lines; of mixed Hottentot, and Dutch parentage, he partook of the peculiarities of both races; his skin was of a muddy yellow, his lips as thick as a wagon wheel, and his eyes of a dull and lusterless black; his frame might have rivalled a Hercules in strength. As to dress, and toilet, it must be said that my Sancho Panza was not particular; a rough pair of cowhide boots, which bid defiance to the sharpest fangs of the most venomous serpents, encased his legs from the knees to the feet, dirty brown pantaloons, and a foxy blouse completed his attire; his eyes, (as much as such dull orbs could) sparkled with enthusiasm when I presented him with a coarse red sash, similar to the article I wore, to hold his pistols; thus equipped, and with a pair of blankets strapped behind the saddle, we commenced our journey; thirty miles were made in about four hours, through a most enchanting country, flowers, which in Europe, were nursed with the greatest care in hot houses, are here trodden under foot. Clouds of parrots of the most brilliant colors, flitted from branch to branch. Antelopes, with their soft black eyes, glanced at us timidly; and scoured away to the distant plains, with the speed of lightning. Immense fields, stretching further than the eye can reach, were whitened with the most magnificent cape jessamines, which exhaled an almost oppressive perfume, and the air was literally heavy with the signs of flowers.

At twelve, Jan said "massa, time for rest and eat."

"Well come on, where shall we stop."

"Under the shade of that tree," said he, pointing as he spoke, to a large palm tree, nothing loath. I consented, and was going to throw myself on the richly carpeted sward, but Jan interposed with a "massa, you put blanket under."

Having arranged matters to his satisfaction the half breed glanced round, and loading his pistol fired into the tree, and brought down a parrot; thrice was the operation repeated, and each time with the like success. Jan's whole soul was engrossed in his occupation, and as the scene was new to me, I watched his motions curiously, though I did not dare to meddle; the birds were carefully picked, wrapped in large leaves, and buried in the earth a fire was

then kindled, and as soon as a bed of coals was ready, Jan asked "where de coffee pot."

This was also produced not forgetting a paper of sugar, and a bottle of cream, which had been packed with some biscuit in a small tin travelling case, containing an equipage for two persons; water was spedily procured, and I soon smelled the fragrant odor of well roasted Mocha; still Jan was not satisfied, and observed, "massa dont you nose him."

"Nose what?"

"Why de little red berries, where de antelopes comes, dey is plenty."

Still I did not understand him; but allowed him to take his own way; creeping cautiously along, he surveyed the ground, picked and tasted something, and returned in about half an hour with an impromptu leaf basket, full of the most delicious red strawberries, one of which was as large as three of those raised in Convent Garden Market. Jan was right, at a little distance the ground was thickly covered with the delicate fruit, and the antelopes had not deceived him. The coffee was ready; the parrots were unearthed and most admirable, and juicily tender they proved; the whole meal was a success, and there was nothing to disturb the delicious reverie, in which I indulged for more than two hours, when Jan intimated, that it was time to move, and after four hours hard riding, we reached the abode of Meinheer Von Kemp, one of the most opulent boors, or landholders in the colony, who resided in a large mansion house two stories high, containing about twenty apartments, with a view to accomodation not elegance; the farmer was master of some thousand of acres, and owned a stud of horses, and countless sheep and cows; his countenance, as I alighted, was irradiated with a hospitable smile, and he assured me, that I was a thousand times welcome; adding also, that he was glad to see strangers, and that he would introduce his sons, who were known as the best huntsmen for a hundred miles around. Madame next came forward, a brisk little woman, a little wrinkled, it is true, but withal in fine preservation, who said that she had known Mr. Cummings, and that he was a fine fellow. She also communicated the acceptable intelligence, that her sons longed to meet such another, as they had not had such fine sport, since he left.

The blowing of a horn, announced that the labors of the day were ended, and the horses, and cattle flocked to a large stone

trough to slake their thirst. These beasts were of all hues, but I preferred the mouse color with their large soft intelligent eyes; the horses were large and strongly built; delicacy of proportion they had none, but its absence was fully compensated by nerve and a power of endurance.

Supper was prepared, and I was made acquainted with the younger scions of the house of Von Kemp; and in truth, they were superb specimens of civilization, possessing all the strength of savages, an excellent education, and the somewhat formal courtesy of the old school. Madame had before told me, that her sons had received all the advantages; which the colony could afford that they constantly received books from Europe, and were fond of music; after the evening meal was finished, we went to the parlor, which was furnished in a style, evincing the refined tastes of the occupants of the mansion; pipes, tobacco and coals, were brought in by the most singular specimen of humanity, if indeed he were a member of the human family, that I ever beheld.

This manikin was about two feet, two inches high, or perhaps not so much, his head was large, misshapen and entirely out of proportion, the ears pendulous, and of an enormous size, the chest was small, and the stomach large; hands and feet of no common size, completed this grotesque figure. So great was my astonishment, that for some moments, I was silent, when Madame said;

"I see that you are surprised at Peter."

"You have judged rightly, I never could have supposed that such creatures existed."

"And yet," said Karl, the youngest of the sons, "there is a whole nation of such individuals. Colonel Grey of the royal engineers, who about a year since, visited their country, about three hundred miles from here assured me, that in comparsion with the rest of his tribe, Peter was an Apollo.

"Is there good hunting in that section."

"Oh! yes. From this to that the woods are full of beasts of all kinds, not forgetting serpents. ?"

Karl, and his father, here exchanged glances, and the latter resumed; "if you have no objection, as you came to this country for sport, I shall be very happy if you will accompany us, on a hunt of two or three weeks; one of my men told me yesterday that there is a fine herd of camel leopards. I have seen their tracks, and we can take the matter at our ease."

I joyfully consented to his proposition, and as I was exhausted by my long ride, sought my pillow, where I was soon buried in the deepest slumber; after I had pondered on elephants, giraffes, and antelopes, not to mention lions, leopards, and tigers.

The next day I rose early, and after a bath, proceeded to examine the premises where I had met such a hearty reception, and for that purpose mounted a tall rock, when I was amazed at the sight of six lions engaged in sport, on the plain beneath me; two males, one female, and three cubs were tumbling about like schoolboys. I surveyed the group with the most intense satisfaction they rolled over each other, then resuming an upright position would apparently converse, purring at intervals like cats; one more adventurous indulged in immense leaps, invariably returning to the place where it came and fawning upon its associates, bit them playfully; more than half an hour was thus passed, when the beasts apparently alarmed at some noise, decamped at full speed, and the place was once more quiet, I waited for some minutes, but no animal came, and I returned to the house, passing through the yard.

Forty cows were waiting impatiently to be milked; as many bulls well fed, and with coats shining like silk, snorted and cast hungry glances at the fodder, which piled in huge ricks before them was destined to satisfy their appetites; girls and men of all shades and complexions from jet black to tawny yellows, assiduously attended by fowls of all breeds, ten fine setter dogs constituted themselves guardians of the whole, which presented a scene; which some Flemish painters would have delighted to transfer to canvass. A summons to breakfast interrupted my meditations, and I was soon seated at a table loaded with all the delicacies produced on the broad domains of my opulent host; fruits of all kinds, every preparation of milk and cream; fragrant tea and coffee, would have satisfied the most fastidious; and the far famed restaurant of the French, capital, could not have boasted a greater variety. Karl and Louis, were equipped, an ample straw hat protected their eyes, and large boots like those of Jan, covered them from hip to ancle; the horses were brought out, and after carefully examining the guns, and bags, at the saddles, we were en route. A large wagon driven by six Hottentots, and drawn by as many oxen followed in the rear; an easy ride of ten miles brought us to a large plain, when hearing the notes of a small bird, Louis exclaimed, "the giraffes are here, this bird always goes before them." The words were

scarcely out of his mouth, ere I perceived a flock of giraffes, advancing through a cloud of dust; Louis motioned to us, to conceal ourselves in a clump of trees, where we saw the creatures unconscious of any danger approach the tall trees, with which the plain was profusely studded, and graze on the tops, choosing the highest leaves, whispering an order to the boors, who drove the wagon; six dogs were unleashed, and put on the ground, who noiselessly surrounded the giraffes, he then gave the word, and the horsemen charged on the affrighted animals, each raising himself in his stirrups, and aiming at some particular individual; the noise was deafening, and after the smoke had cleared away, I saw a large chesnut bull, the senior of the herd, falling to the ground, with a heavy crash; he had evidently received his death wound. The others attempted to escape, but it was too late; the dogs drove them to the centre, and though sundry sharp kicks were aimed, the hounds avoided the attacks of their assailants, and thus escaped scot free.

Again a charge was made, and three more fell, the dogs entered into the sport, and drove the animals into a narrower space; but a sudden tremor now took possession of the horses, and the noble steeds, who had hitherto been as motionless as if cut out of stone, became restive, snorted, refused to move, and a cold sweat bathed their limbs, while they uttered the most plantive neighs. The cause of their terror was soon ascertained. A leopardess, undismayed by the noise, and scenting the blood, came to the place of carnage, and as she gathered herself up for a final leap, presented a grand sight

This creature was fully grown, her hide was of a glossy yellow, marked with the richest brown rosettes, and her eyes shone with a metallic lustre;—there was something feminine in her aspect, mixed with cold cruelty. Every motion was graceful, but there was no confidence.

Louis rode up to her, and the pair contemplated each other for a moment when the beast, gnashing her teeth, prepared for a dash at the horse's head, where she was received on a bayonet, and a severe wound inflicted; the leopardess rested for a few moments on the ground where she had flung herself in her agony, then lashing her sides with her tail, strained all her nerves for the encounter, and collecting herself made a spring; but the wary hunter had foreseen her intention, and drawing a pistol, shot her deliberately through the head.

As yet, I had not killed a giraffe, but resolving not to be out, done by my companions singled out a young female, and cautiously approaching her fired, but harmlessly, and she broke off in a gallop, but aided by the dogs, I drove her into a narrow circle, and taking a good sight, sent a bullet into the brain, and like her companions, she too fell on the sward; I dismounted, and approaching began to stroke her head, she opened her soft lustrous eyes, and seemed to take pleasure in the caress; turned over on her side, looked at me, as if in reproach for her death, and expired: I was enchanted, at last I had made a beginning, I was fairly inaugurated in the sport, and I had commenced the career, for which I had so long sighed.

I inspected the dead animal, as if to make sure of my prize, and taking out my diary recorded the event, but my thoughts were soon called elsewhere, the cattle were impatient, and turning to a deep stream close at hand, plainly indicated their desire for a drink, and Karl said we might as well drive to this. I cheerfully consented, and the field soon presented a different aspect; some brought water to the horses, and rubbing them down, threw cloths over their loins; others kindled fires, and pots, pans, and kettles were soon brought into active requisition; orders were given in English, Dutch and Hottentot, and sometimes in a lingua frnaca composed of all three;—the horses and cattle greedily munched their provender, and lowed their satisfaction, the dogs licked their chops, and looked as if they expected a feast, fowls were roasting on the spit before the fire, and potatoes were cooking in the ashes; flocks of macaws wheeled over head in the trees, but were unnoticed amid the general confusion. The meal was at length pronounced ready, and never was fare more thoroughly appreciated, or more keenly discussed. The dogs were not forgotten, and a due share of the fragments was allotted for their use.

Pipes were next produced, and enveloped in clouds of the most fragrant Turkish tobacco, we were conversing on the politics of the day; when on turning round, I saw the most singular form standing at my elbow, though how it came there is a mystery to this day, this nondescript might have been sixty or eighty, as time contrary to her usual wont seemed to have stood still. The wool was silvery, and cropped close to the head, an ornament of tiger's claws was on the skinny neck, the teeth had long since disappeared, the nose was sharp and prominent, and imparted a fox like character to the countenance which was lighted up by a single eye; the

complexion was of a dirty yellow; a faded red tunic trimmed with silver lace, and European half boots, left me in doubt, as to the sex of the wearer, and I looked questioningly at Karl, who replied:—"The mighty woman of the tribe, who wanders over the country, and subsists on the fruits and vegetables, as they grow." Jan and the other Hottentots coming up, testified the most slavish submission to the priestess, who surveyed, as a princess, her vassals the admirers who flocked to adore her.

"She obi"—whispered Jan.

"Can she speak English?"

"No"—

"Well, let me have a trial of her skill, and ask her, whether I shall be fortunate." The request was duly interpreted, and she agreed to gratify my wishes.

Putting her hand in her pocket, she drew out bones, and parti-colored rags, which she arranged in three piles; then taking a stick, from a neighboring tree, waved it several times over the rubbish she had collected, at the same time muttering to herself in jargon, that was unintelligible to her hearers; at last she beckoned Jan, and whispered something in his ear!

"Massa," cried Jan, "she say you be lucky."

I was at a loss, who to compensate the prophetess, as she never took money, but I remembered, I had some loose gilt buttons, which were offered, and thankfully received.

"You did right, Massa," said Jan, with an expression of the greatest satisfaction, "that woman, powerful obi, she put spell on you, you never do right no more." Night drew on, the tents were picthed, the cattle drawn round them, and the dogs ranged on the outside, so that if a stranger presented himself he would be sure to be recognised. "Suppose" said Karl, "that we call in old Matthias, a Christian Hottentot, who has been for many years in my father's service, and let him relate his adventures, with the lions, and the leopard, which happened twenty years ago."

Matthias, who is about fifty, was clad in a respectable grey suit, advanced, made a courteous bow, and folding his arms awaited his young master's orders.

"Well, Mat, as we are encamped to night, I would like to hear you tell your adventure with the lions and leopard."

"Willingly," was the reply;—and as the narative interested me, I will lay it before my readers.

I was brought up at the cape, and though I had been often charged against the habit, I was fond of wandering in the woods, and one afternoon was captured by a party of savages, who lived about one hundred miles from the cape, aud compelled to accompany them. The white men had then made no settlement than the cape;—though occasionally an officer, would make a trip, and I was obliged to go with these men, who made about thirty miles every night, rested during the day, and fed on the birds and animals they snared; at last, we reached the collection of mud huts, they called a town, and where our journey ended. Two or three dwarfs like Peter, resided there, who lived in a sort of temple, and whom they held in the greatest veneration. I could understand nearly all they said, and learned that about three hundred miles off, there was a nation of pigmies, but I did not trouble my head much about them, as I was anxious to escape, and feigning satisfaction lulled their suspicions entirely to sleep; I had with me, when captured a sharp knife, which I managed to conceal; these people had only one art; they could point spears of wood, and harden them in the fire, till the ends if driven with force into any object, would inflict severe and often dangerous wounds. I possessed myself of two of these, and when I was alone in the town, as all the men had gone out to hunt, effected my escape, and journeying as rapidly as my strength would permit was soon safe.

"As I was leaning against a tree eating some fruit, I heard several growls, and soon perceived, what was a very uncommon sight—a pair of lions, and a leopard. These beasts seldom go together; in fact, I may say, I have been a hunter more than thirty years, and rarely have seen more than four lions together at one time, and never a leopard or panther with them;—when I saw these formidable beasts approach, I gave myself up for lost; but my courage did not forsake me, and propping myself against a tree, presented a bold front to my adversaries. The lioness eyed me, as if half doubtful of attacking a man, who did not seem afraid of her, and who held a spear. She advanced looking at me, and received a wound in the neck, which bled profusely. Enraged at the pain, she flew at me, and attempting to clasp me in her pass, gave me the opportunity of plunging my knife in her throat. She staggered off a few paces, moaned a little, and then died. During this contest the other two had remained aloof, when the lioness expired, her companions turned her over, smelled at her, and

seemed as if they could not understand, what had happened, both then rushed on me, and strange as it may seem, were wounded, but neither seriously, and they lay on the ground, licking the places. Glancing cautiously around, I saw some large stones, which I picked up, and threw at the heads of the two beasts, and wounded them both in the eye, the lion rushed at me, with open jaws, and I plunged my sharp spear, down his throat, while keeping his companion at bay; he vainly endeavoured to release himself, but all his efforts were useless, and he only sunk the weapon lower down. He gasped on the ground, and after some deep groans breathed his last.

"The survivor gazed at me for a moment, then at the bodies of his two companions, and after pausing for a few seconds attacked me, trying as is the custom, with most of the cat tribe to sever the jugular vein; but for this I was prepared, and having seized a large stick, inflicted a severe blow on the snout, which though not dangerous was exquisitely painful; and my four footed enemy hurried to the little brook, which ran near, and plunging his head in the water, strove to mitigate the pain, but from the manner in which the beast moved I knew that the blows must have been painful; after remaining sometime with his head in the water, the leopard, again rushed on me, and this time was wounded in the side, and lay for some seconds panting on the ground. As yet he had lost no blood, and he glanced at me savagely, A long accquaintance with these creatures had taught me, that they frequently feigned weakness, when still strong; I thought it was a trick, to draw me near him, I ventured to abandon the tree, and approaching him softly from behind dealt him a blow on the head, and thought he was then dead, but no, he was only stunned;—and coming to himself ran to the brook, as rapidly as his strength would permit, to plunge his head into its cooling depths. But he was too feeble, and reclining on the edge, uttered the most savage growl. Seeing his position, I plunged my knife into his heart, a few struggles, and all was over. I then laid down to sleep, and did not wake next day till noon, judging from the shadows of the trees. I could hardly believe that I had been so miraculously preserved, but there were the bodies of the three beasts, and I knew that I had been the master. As I had some skill in taning, at least as we practise it, I skinned the animals, and struggling under the weight of my spoils, I proceeded on my journey.

I trembled at every step, and feared when the leaves rustled that my former masters had discovered me; after a rest of three days I resumed my journey, and safely arrived at Capetown, where I sold the skins to a Scotch trader, at a high price."

When the story was finished, I prepared for rest, but found something underneath me, and called Jan to see what it was, he seized the unwelcome intruder, which proved to be a snake two feet and a half long, and one of the most venomous of its kind, in that part of Africa. Jan, holding the serpent by the neck, forced it to remain in that position till dead; when he threw it on the fire outside to burn him up, as he said, for good luck, and thus ended our first day."

The following morning, I awoke rather late, but exceedingly refreshed. The men had been stirring from a very early hour, and a brace of birds, and an antelope, which smoked before us, proved that they had not been idle, and they also brought the welcome intelligence, that some wild hogs were in the vicinity, and that one of the boys, who had mounted a high tree had seen them; the horses and cattle were duly watered and fed; we were soon in the saddle, and the dogs followed at our heels. Suddenly they stopped, and uttering a series of sharp barks started off at full speed, and we followed in their footsteps. The report was correct, there were several wild hogs rooting in a field.

"Ah?" said Jan "I knowed them fellowsh was about here, just see, what they has done," and as he spoke he showed a quantity of vegetables. Matthias came, and whistling to the dogs, they soon environed the animals on all sides. All this was done so quietly that the hogs knew nothing about it, and escape was impossible, and they were disturbed from their luxurious banquet by the firing of a pistol. The hogs alarmed ceased eating, and lifting their heads reconnoitred; they were a size larger than the domestic breed, their hoofs were sharper and more pointed, their tusks were tremendous, and their eyes glowed like living coals; undismayed by their danger, they collected in a body; presented a formidable front, and charged upon their foes; but two or three sharp thrusts from spears held by Jan and others, compelled them to change their tactics. Tying the horses to a tree, Karl, Louis, and myself dismounted, and plunged at once into the fray. The dogs keenly enjoyed the fun of the thing, and kept up an incessant barking; which greatly annoyed their porcine foes. The hogs foamed at the

mouth, and trembled in every limb, while their countenance, (if I may apply such an observation to animals) expressed a ferocious determination. Fox the most sagacious of all the dogs, had matched himself against a veteran with enormous tusks, which exerting his whole strength, endeavored to rip open his antagonist's side. The cunning dog, as if guessing his intent, waited till the hog came near enough, and then seized him by the throat. Each for a moment gazed in the other's eyes, and though I would have liked to have seen the contest, ended the matter by stabbing the wild animal to the heart. He was the finest specimen there, and I was desirous of preserving his tusks and skin. A torrent of blood colored the sward, a cry of mingled rage and pain, and his life and misery were ended together.

Karl and Louis had each killed three, while I was engaged with one, I felt my inferiority, and secretly resolved that I would slay as many.

Choosing a large female I signified to Fox, that he must catch and hold, while I dispatched her; but he was not strong enough, and the animal escaped, but I did not lose sight of her, and making a desperate attempt struck my spear in her side, which broke short off, and left its point there. Two or three times I tried my pistols, but each time my shot had no effect, I was in a dilemma, and called for Jan, but he was in a distant part of the field, and could not hear me, remembering Matthias' sylvan experience, and seeing no club near; I ventured on a little riding whip, which hung at my wrist, and gave her savage ladyship, three sharp cuts; the effect was magical, she had never experienced such a sensation before, and it was certainly neither agreeable nor soothing; she charged upon me, with the evident intention of throwing me down, but a friendly shrub standing near gave me a trifling support, and I repeated the dose. She ran round and round, and did her best to extricate the head of the spear, which greatly annoyed her, till Jan came up; when exerting all her strength, she threw the luckless fellow to the ground; though his position seemed deplorable he did not lose courage, and with a mighty effort shook himself clear, and was once more erect.

A loud whistle brought Lion and Fox, who each seized an ear, and the animal, though gifted with great strength, was unable to make any headway, and presented a fair aim. Hastily loading my pistols, I shot her in the head, and consigning her to the

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baggage wagon, sought a fresh victim; he soon came, and was easily finished. Three had now fallen beneath my hand. Two vultures settling themselves on a tree calmly waited till the time arrived for them to banquet on the offal. Some eagles sailed majestically through the air, as if disdaining the things here below.

"Ah massa," exclaimed Jan, "the sport is nearly done and dese birds knows it."

"Well," I replied, "let us join the others, and make a common game."

All the dogs, at the command of Matthias, who acted as a kind of game-keeper, ran around the hogs, and drove them in one corner. The Hottentots, and boys arming themselves with spears made an exit impossible, and the reverberation of the guns and pistols re-echoed from the distant mountains; the firing suddenly ceased, and three alone remained, when a half grown lion presented himself, and caught up one of the hogs. I determined that he should be mine, and fired, the shot took effect, and lamed him in the forepaw. Disregarding the pain, he stamped on the ground, and seemed to ask, who has dared to lay his hands on my royal person, but the question did not long remain unanswered. Another shot wounded him slightly, in the neck, and drew a little blood, raising himself on his hind legs, he endeavoured to clasp me in a deadly embrace, but eluding his motion, I fired again, this time harmlessly; his paws had greatly damaged my blouse, but the skin was untouched, the lion considerably weakened, rested for a moment on his haunches, and then tried again to claw me, but I, was now prepared, and adopting the African fashon, plunged my knife between his fore paws; the wound was mortal, the brute staggered two or three feet, and then fell heavily to the ground.

While I had been so engaged, the others had killed the remaining hogs, and the sward was covered with their remains, but I was too much engrossed with my noble game to pay much attention. This lion was about two years, and a half old, his mane showed that he had not yet attained his full growth, his teeth and claws were exceedingly sharp, and admirably fitted for his purpose.

The boys now clamored for mittag, or dinner; it was therefore determined to stop for that day, and preparations were made for the necessary refreshment; I was determined to take care of my own spoils, and as the animals, would soon become offensive in that hot climate, I resolved at once to prepare the lion, the giraffe,

and the hogs; Jan and I began, but we had not made much progress, ere we heard, a voice, exclaim " the grey is dead."

This was a remarkably fine animal, ridden by Louis Von Kemp, which had been taken to the water to drink a few moments before, and which then appeared in perfect health. I hastened to the brink of the river, and found the beast insensible, but applying my ear to his heart, detected a slight pulsation, which soon increased and in a few minutes the horse stood up, looked around him, and though evidently terrified, was sound in limb. I asked the reason and was told that he had been taken to the water to drink, that a fish had tickled his nose, and that he had fallen down, almost dead, as I had seen him. I now understood, that he had been stung by a fish, that had the same power as the electrical eel of South America.

About five o'clock, as we were settling the affairs of the nation, and smoking our pipes, a party of the natives of the country made their appearance, and begged for tobacco and spirits; the former was given, the latter denied.

These creatures are rare specimens, of perfect ugliness. They did not belong to the Cape or its vicinity but were further in the interior, and had the most singular looking sugar loaf heads I ever saw; even the infant which lay in its mother's arms had the same odd shaped cranium. I supposed that like some of the American Indians, they used artificial means to produce this deformity, and considered it merely as a monstrous perversion of taste, but was subsequently informed by a traveller who had visited these people, that all, or mearly all, had the same configuration of the skull. They spoke in a kind of deep guttural, and bore a considerable resemblance to some of the gorillas, in fact the beast's head was better shaped than the man's, work they would not, but rambled about the country without any apparent aim. I have been told that in another part of this continent, I shall behold still queerer specimens. It may be so, for I am in a land of wonders and continually lost in astonishment. Our new friends, finding that they could not get what they asked, speedily withdrew.

It is one of the characteristics of a tropical climate, that there is no twilight, and you pass at once from the most brilliant day, to the darkest night. And what tongue or pen can do justice to a tropical night? We were sitting outside the tent, enjoying the perfumed balmy air, and listening to the experience in woodcraft,

which Matthias laid down with an air of wisdom, when we heard a slight rustling in the thicket, strict search was made, but neither beast, bird, nor serpent, could be found. We resumed our seats, and Matthias was again "spinning his yarns," when a large ox, uttered a sharp cry, and bounded off as if pursued by a legion of fiends.

"What is the matter," shouted all at once.

"A leopard, Massa, a leopard, Massa, is on him back." With the speed of lightning I leaped on the quadruped, which Jan had saddled, and flew after the luckless beast. There sure enough was the leopard, crouching on the animal's neck, holding on, with the tenacity of a vice; I fired, and the shot took effect in the fleshy part of the leg, or rather thigh, and though some blood was drawn, yet the beast did not relax its hold The ox was also wounded, but kept up its speed, and making for the nearest tree endeavored to crush its rider; but the leopard, retaining its hold, slipped lower down, and thus avoided the blow. The horse trembling with fear in every limb, snorted, hesitated, and nearly threw me. I managed to keep my seat, and fired again, but my pistol snapped, and the leopard seeing how matters were progressing, quietly gave the coup-de-grace, and it was all over with the ox. Numberless shots had been fired by others of the party, who had joined me, but the night was in favor of the beast of prey, and he was left to gorge himself. The following day, I went to see how much was left of the ox; and found the rest, in possession of some crows and vultures, probably the same who had posted themselves on the trees in the field, where the hogs were slain. Aided by Jan, I again resumed my task of preparing the specimens I had taken, and the whole day was thus spent. The Hottentots understand the art of drying skins, and delight above all things to be on a hunt.

Every part of the wild hog is turned to account, and the meat when boiled on a clean bed of coals, or allowed to cook before the flames, is delicious, as it has an aromatic taste; flocks of wild ducks of all sizes, and of the most varied, and brilliant colors, hovered over the water and were brought out by the dogs. Parrots of all colors roosted on the trees, and the wild fowl nestled in the jungles. All fell beneath our guns, and graced our tables, and many a European epicure would have relished such dainties. Different varities of monkey were heard chattering in the trees,

but they bore too great a resemblance to man, to be used as food.

A messenger came from the farm with supplies of cream, sugar, and milk, and we prepared for another stretch say about twenty miles. Though I did not mention the fact to my companions, I was anxious to go further into the country, where perhaps I might meet some of Peter's kinsfolks, at all events others of his race. Matthias was of opinion that twenty miles further, we should see traces of lions, and I wished to have a shot at the kingly beasts. The whole day was passed in killing small game, parrots, geese and monkeys; some quarters of the wild hog, were put in pickle, and carried with us in huge jars, and about seven o'clock in the evening, all heavily armed, we began our journey. The heat of the day was over, and the air was cool and soothing; a watchful look-out was kept for the leopard, which had robbed us of one of our oxen, but we never saw him again. At twelve, we reached the spot; the ground as usual, was ornamented with a quantity of flowers of every hue, a small river ran at a little distance, and clumps of trees were scattered here and there; the tents were pitched, the watch was set, and the others were soon in the arms of Morpheus

At seven Karl shook the canvass, and intimated that it was time to rise, but I could see Jan no where, and vainly sought him in every direction; breakfast was discussed, but still my servant did not make his appearance. I was alarmed, but was soon reassured by Jan himself, who came into the tent, with his eyes almost starting out of his head.

"Where have you been, sir?" was my first question.

"Massa, Massa, I see after de lions."

"What lions?"

"Them you was talk about."

"I was speaking of no lions."

"I hear you say, you kill de lions, and fetch him skin home, and I thought I go see."

"Well what did you see?"

"De trees Massa, de trees, dey is all clawed, and de lions is about here, I know dey is."

I called Matthias, and told him what Jan had said, and he was of opinion that the lions must be near, the pistols and guns were put in working order, and soon the whole party was at a rocky field, under the guidance of Jan. Still no lions were there, though

the deeply dented trees, showed evident marks of their vicinity. Matthias, closely examined the field, found a small cave, and was convinced that they were there. At a risk, a pistol was fired, which was answered by a terrific growl, and shortly after a lion, and his mate emerged from its mouth.

"I knowed they was there," was Jan's commentary, with a smile at the same time, showing a mouth full of unbroken ivory, which a duchess might have envied, the dogs were not afraid, though they kept at a respectful distance from the monarchs of the forest, the horses were restive, but were encouraged with a few caresses, and some sugar, with which Matthias, had directed the riders to fill their pockets, the cattle were securely fastened, and the men with loaded pistols, and pointed spears stood before them.

Karl, Louis, Jan, and myself opened the contest, a pistol was fired, which tore up the ground at the feet of the female, at which she stamped violently, attemped a retreat, but was driven to her former post by the dogs I rode up to the lion with a spear, and struck him in the flank, and he, to return the compliment, attempted to climb to the horse's neck, but was repulsed, by a sharp kick, which if it did not hurt, at least frightened him. Wheeling round, the lion tried to mount behind, but was dislodged from that position, by a quick movement of my trusty steed, and was again in front; one of the dogs now assailed him in the rear, but was soon dismissed, and retired from the contest with a howl. He and I, like the knights of old, were resolved to fight it out, á l'outrance, each disdaining to ask quarter—I raised myself in my stirrups, and with my gun, took a deliberate aim, but inflicted only a trifling wound in the side, which maddened the brute, and he rolled on the ground to alleviate the pain, quickly resuming his spirits, he recommenced the fight. I fired again, this time more effectually wounding him severely in the left paw.

The limb was not broken, but the ligaments and small bones were displaced. Jan came up, and drove the spear he carried into his side; the wound was frightful, the blood poured out in torrents, but still the animal had not lost either his courage or his spirits, and hobbling to Jan, seized him by the forearm. But the precaution had been taken of enveloping it in a prepared leopard skin, and the sharply pointed fangs, made little or no impression. While the pair were thus engaged, I reloaded, and taking a fair aim, shot him in the back, and broke his spine. He was now

uuable to move; reduced to such a position, he endeavored, but ineffectually to rise. A pistol shot blew out his brains, and numbered him with the dead. This animal was one of the largest of his race, but as I had no tape, or measuring line, I could not ascertain his exact length; the hair was long, and he had a noble mane. No one can form any idea of the majestic appearance of this king of beasts, unless he sees him at liberty, and bounding through the forests of his native land.

While I had been thus occupied the others had had a severe tug with the female. At first she seemed inclined to aid her mate, but was driven by the dogs to another part of the field. Turning her steps to the cave, she attempted to seek a refuge there, but the dogs headed by one of the boys, denied her that asylum, and bursting with rage, she seized the forearm of her assailant. But the dogs attacking her in the rear, compelled her to drop it, and the boy who was well accustomed to such encounters, seized a stick, which was close at hand, and laid his foe prostrate; then tearing his shirt, made some bandages for the wound. A quarter grown cub, ran out of the cave, and the dam, placing herself between it, and the assailants, made the most energetic attempts to save the lives of both, but unavailingly.

Karl came up on foot, and firing a pistol, wounded her severely in the flank. Enraged by this, the lioness endeavored to close with her opponents, but was baffled; exhausted with suffering, and loss of blood, she crouched on the ground, panted, and watched for a favorable moment to renew the contest. Karl fired his pistol, which broke her hind paws, and greatly crippled all her movements, the pain was intense, and she growled savagely. Suddenly she looked toward the water, and making a mighty effort reached the stream; but Jan was too quick for her, cut off her retreat, and stabbed her;—thus ended the day's sport; the cub was killed as the most humane disposition that could be made of it.

As I had paid some attention to surgery, I now examined Fritz's wound, which bled profusely, and found, that though he had been severely clawed, still no bones were broken, or out of place. Jan who was looking curiously on, said, "Massa I fix him," and disappeared on the wings of the wind, apparently unheeding my injunction, not to remain all day, but contrary to my expectation, he soon returned with some wet leaves, which he bound on the sufferer's arm to his immediate and great relief, and as the sun

was oppressive it was voted nem. con., that we should take a day's rest. I was not sorry for this interval as I wished to pack up the skins, and arrange the bones of the animals, in all of which I was admirably seconded by Jan. The heat, especially to a foreigner, was at times insupportable, but under the shadows of the canvass I could gaze uninterruptedly at the beauties so lavishly spread around me.

A boy of about twelve years old, who belonged to the party of natives, who last visited us, remained behind, and attached himself to me. Next to Peter, he was the oddest looking elf I had ever seen, and in some respects surpassed even that worthy in ugliness. He was an inch or two less in height, and his tongue, which was too large for his mouth, lolled out incessantly. Neck he had none, and his head was on his shoulders. And such a head! oh ye Gods, such a head! it was a complete square with two holes representing a nose, a cavern of a mouth; the hands and feet rather resembled those of an ape, and had the thumb been an eighth of an inch longer, they might readily have passed for such. The eyes were small, black, and deeply set in the head, and the pupils were of a deeper yellow than, I had ever before seen. A series of gutturals, which however were understood by Jan, constituted his conversation; the gift of a few brass buttons, had converted him, into one of my most zealous admirers.

Dinner had been served with its usual empressement, and the quarters of the wild pig delicately browned, occupied the place of honor. After the meal, and just as we were on the point of sinking into a siesta, Jan and my new page presented themselves, and the latter asked permission to go to the water.

"But he is not in my service, Jan."

"All de same, massa, he stay wid you, he say, till we get to de Cape, or de farm again, and be yours till then."

"Well Jan, if he is so obstinate, I suppose I must have him; he is under your care; get my gun, call one of the dogs, and I will go to the water with you." The river was unruffled, and myriads of wild ducks rested on its surface, raising my gun, I fired in the midst of a covey, and some fell in the water, which were brought out by the dogs.

I advanced a little nearer, to take a good look at the stream, and surrounding objects, when I saw what I conceived to be a log of wood floating outside the ducks, to which I drew Jan's attention, and asked him how it got there.

"Cant tell massa, one of the limbs of de big trees' is blowed down dere; dey limbs is mighty big and tough."

I resumed the sport, one duck fell rather out of the way; the boy volunteered to strip, and plunge in after the bird. Suiting the action to the word, he was soon struggling with the current, and I saw him extend his hand; suddenly the welkin rang with a terrific shriek; the water-fowl, alarmed at such an uncommon noise, huddled close together, as if seeking mutual protection, and I eagerly stepped forward, to ascertain the cause of this extraordinary noise, when I saw Jan standing, as if struck dumb with fear, and pointing in the direction of the river, hissed out the word, "crocodile;" he was almost white with consternation, and terror was painted in every lineament.

The log was indeed a crocodile, and the reptile held the boy in his jaws, who uttered the most fearful cries for aid. All were in the water, in the twinkling of 'an eye, and Matthias armed with a heavy mace, was soon alongside the monster, which gazed at him steadfastly, but showed no intention of relinquishing its prey; a heavy blow on the back was or seemed to be unfelt, and it swam in another direction, pursued by Matthias, who was endeavoring to plunge a hunting knife, which he constantly carried about his person, into the soft parts, under the paws, or near the eyes. Guns were fired, but the discharges rattled from his scales, as from a coat of mail. Jan and two others, presented spears in front but the reptile constantly widened the distance between himself and his pursuers, and burdened as he was, swam so swiftly that he soon tired them out. Then another terrible shriek, the water was tinged with blood, and we knew that the work of destruction was progressing; the men quitted the shores sadly and slowly, and it was long ere I could forget the frightful scene I had witnessed.

As we were near the famous Constantia plantation, I availed myself of the opportunity of visiting that celebrated establishment, which produces the richest vintage in the world; and accompanied by Karl and Louis, was presented to the hospitable proprietor, who showed us his vineyard, and the manner of preparing this exquisite beverage. The best plants are chosen, planted, and carefully watched. The dead leaves are picked off and the ground watered at certain seasons; when the fruit has reached its maturity, it is sorted into three heaps. The first quality wine is made of the ripest fruit. The second of the next best, with the must of the first; and the third of the grapes left.

Some glasses of the first were set before us, and as to taste and color, I may safely say, that it was unrivalled. The chief manager of the estate is a keen sportsman, who remembered Gordon Cummings perfectly, and when I told him of the disaster of my quandom page, said that a race of the most extraordinary creatures inhabited another part of Africa, and if I followed a certain route, I should certainly meet them, and infected me with such a desire, that if I can make my arrangements, I shall beyond all doubt seek that section, which has rarely, if ever been trodden by European feet.

The jessamines as usual were magnificent, and I was charmed at seeing a bird resting on the flower, but he seemed as if dead, and though I whistled repeatedly took no notice, I glanced in a large tree, and saw the glittering eyes of a snake, fixed on the little warbler, which I freed from its enemy; the bird was greatly relieved, chanted his thanks and flew away.

Four or five days were spent in wandering over this enchanting country, in the course of which I bagged more giraffes, a half grown lion, and passed over one hundred miles of territory. Travelling leisurely and allowing the baggage wagon to come up, till the two weeks absence granted to Karl and Louis had expired, and they were compelled to resume their duties at the farm, whither, we returned in a body, and where a joyful surprise awaited me, in the shape of letters and newspapers from home. It was curious to read under the tropical trees, the intrigues of the different parties in parliament, the chronicles of the war in America, and to see how entirely I was separated from all, and ere I could receive intelligence, another party might govern England, and the Southern republic be recognized; still I did not regret the choice, I had made, and panted for fresh fields of adventure.

The next morning a neighbor came in and complained bitterly of the attacks of the leopards, on his hen roosts, notwithstanding, the vigilance of the dogs, and the guns of the men: and as it happened that Mynheer Von Kemp had been similarly troubled, he could have a fellow-feeling with his friend. It was therefore resolved that a party should be got up, to track the leopards to their dens, and destroy them, we were to meet at Klink's farm, and one of his shepherds with the aid of a dog, which was particularly keen-scented, was to ascertain the whereabouts of the depredators, and bring them to justice.

Breakfast was hastily finished, the guns examined, and the horses brought to the door. Some of the dogs were taken, and those that were left behind testified their regret by the most dolorous whines. At last we started, and on reaching Klink's farm were joined by himself and his two sons.

The shepherd now commenced operations by unleashing his dog. This animal was a full blooded African hound, of the purest breed, with well rounded limbs, and an eye, that almost spoke. Taking a piece of raw meat, the shepherd followed by the dog, proceeded to the hen house, where the ground, thickly strewed with feathers, showed that the farmer had good cause for complaint—and the food set down. The hound leisurely devoured the morsel, and then as if instinctively knowing what was wanted pricked up his ears, and barking put his nose to the ground. He next walked round the place three or four times smelling; at last he had the scent, and looking round for his master, took a well trodden path, which we followed on horse back. Several fields were passed; the low hedges offering no impediments, till we found ourselves on a sandy plain, ornamented with some mimosas, and saw reclining under a large shrub, a full grown leopardess which eyed us savagely, and lashing her side with her tail faced undauntedly the party arrayed for her destruction. Her jaws were stained with blood, and a half-eaten sheep, showed that we had disturbed her at her lunch. The dogs barked at her, from the four corners of the field, and thus cut off her retreat. Once indeed, she made a bound as if to escape, but seeing the spears extended to impale her, alighted about five feet from the place where she just stood and nervously jerked her tail.

"Massa, massa," said Jan, "she fear, or she no shake she tail, I know dem beasts well."

"I am not so sure of that," I replied "but we shall see."

I then walked slowly up to the animal, who retreated as leisurely; and when at a proper distance, as she thought made a spring. But for this I was prepared, and received her on the point of a spear, which inflicted a severe wound in the lower part of the throat, ripped the skin, and occasioned great pain; yet the leopardess judged herself mistress of us all, and turning fiercely to the blood hound, which had tracked her, attempted to fix her talons in his throat. But the dog was a match for the leopardess, and had besides the superior advantage of coolness, and neither made

any offer to move, though each was ready to take any advantage of a false move on the part of the other. I judged the moment favorable and softly approached behind ; but the animal's instinct warned her that some greater danger was impending, and quitting the dog, she directed her attention to me. I deliberatly fired, and to my great surprise, (for I had never, had such an easy victory, either before or since) shot the leopardess, just above the eyes, and she expired without a groan ; a few convulsive movements only were perceptible. She was dead, and mine by universal acclamation, and was sent home to await my leisure. As it was yet early we resolved to extend our rambles further, and speedily exchanged our location for perhaps the most charming spot in a hundred miles; the large and magnificent trees of the country afforded a grateful shelter, and were filled with game of all kinds, some of which I had never seen before, and to add to the beauty of the scene a wide and rather deep stream trickled below, and the ground beneath soon showed that we had aimed correctly, and the silence of the grove was broken by the report of the firearms.

A wagon loaded with bread, wine and pastry, soon made its appearance, and the serious task of dinner engrossed the attention of all, and Jan giving a pan to a sable assistant exclaimed "I see him."

"What do you see?"

"De bee bird, or de bird dat always follows de bee, and dere he is on dat tree," pointing as he spoke, to a tall shrub completely covered with white and pink flowers.

"Not there, Jan, certainly."

"No Massa, not dere, but in de big tree, I see de bees go in."

"But how shall we get at the honey?"

"We burn him down massa, and—" A shriek interrupted the speaker; an enormous lioness leaped out of a thicket and with almost incredible rapidity, attached herself to the neck of a boy of fourteen, who was listening to Jan, and tearing aside his clothing was on the point of applying her mouth to his throat, her eyes glittered with excitement, but she was not to have so easy a prey as she expected ; a shower of blows were rained on her back, and withdrawing her head, she fixed her teeth into the shoulder, whence she was dislodged by a red hot spit. This new species of warfare, singed the hair from her head, and compelled her to release the boy. The dogs unfortunately were not with us; the horses

neighed, and exhibited all the symptoms of the most abject fear; Matthias who was in call assumed the command. By his orders the men ranged themselves in a circle, and her doom was fixed; but she was determined to sell her life dearly. Making a desperate leap, she cleared the heads of her opponents, and was once more for a moment free. The dogs, accompanied by the bloodhound, hearing the tumult, came upon the scene. They at once comprehende the matter, and ranging themselves in a line presented an unbroken front; the lioness raised her paw, prepared for a bound, but suddenly changed her mind, and resolved to fight it out. Part of a sheep was thrown to her as a bribe, but she angrily cast it aside, and stood on her dignity. Three men approached, and wounded her with spears; terribly galled by the weapons, she ran among the grass as if searching for some root or vegetable to soothe the pain, which she still felt, and with her tongue lolling out of her mouth, cast longing glances at the water; she was evidently devoured with thirst, but the dogs would not permit her to enjoy this luxury; as a single plunge would have carried her beyond the reach of all her foes. A marsh thickly set with crimson flowers was about thirty feet off, but this refuge was also denied. Matthias followed her at every step, and firing lamed her in the foreshoulder; the blood poured out in torrents, she was forced to hobble; slowly and painfully she dragged her way along till another shot inflicted a frightful wound in the chest; this prostrated her, and she was unable, though she made sundry efforts, to rise, groaned and died. The reader may perhaps not be aware, but it is an acknowledged fact in venerie, that all cats are courageous till wounded; the sight of their own blood dampens their energies, and though they fight desperately, seem to lose their spirits.

A well known officer, stationed at the Cape, but who had resided in Central India, told me, that he had made the same observation, and also, that he and three others had in the course of five hours bagged as many tigers.

The foe killed, quiet once more reigned in the camp. Matthias who in addition to his rustic attainments had some practical knowledge of surgery, dressed the boy's wounds, made a much better bandage than the majority of medical students, tied up his head, and put him in the wagon to rest, till we should return. Some light food was also prepared, and by the time we reached home, the youth was doing well. The teeth of these animals are

very sharp, and the power of jaws tremendous, and such encounters often result in the worst cases of compound fracture.

At sunset we returned home, and I there found some illustrated Dutch papers, and also some spirited drawings of the gorilla, with descriptive letter press; and though well enough satisfied where I was, I determined then and there to visit equatorial Africa. The society of the Cape did not please me, and I was tired of hunting lions and tigers, and longed for more exciting sport. My resolution was soon taken, and providing myself with the articles that would be needed, I repaired at once, to the land about which I had heard so many wonders.

I reached my destination safely, accompanied by Jan, with the intention of taking another servant after I had looked a little about me; I wished to explore the territory stretching from the coast to the sierra del crystal. This region is the home of the fierce and unconquerable gorilla, which in its lineaments nearly resembles the human family. This alone would be an inducement, but in addition, I had also heard of the nest-building ape. The rivers swarmed with hippopotami, the trees with birds of all sizes, and colors, and the ground with flowers of all possible varieties. My first stopping place, after I had crossed the desert was at Baraban, about eight miles above the Gaboon river, and I took there several days rest, which enabled me to make some observations on the natives; unlike Peter, who has been before introduced to our readers, these people are tall, with almost nondescript hands and feet, differing widely from those of any negro I had yet seen, but like the rest of the tribes, they are slowly and surely decreasing. Polygamy, war, and murder, are the chief causes of this depopulation. Four kings preside over as many villages, and it chanced that I was there when king Tomba, lord of the Gaboon village, shuffled off this mortal coil. The body was ornamented with the richest treasures of the late king.

Claws of lions and pieces of elephants tusks rudely carved and fashioned, encircled his neck arms and ankles. A diadem of the most brilliant scarlet feathers rested on his brow and bright colored clothes were wrapped around the body. The women kept up a perpetual howling, and when one band ceased, another began. Priests clad in the most fantastic garbs, watched at the head and feet to scare off the evil spirits, one of the most distinguished chiefs, a tall, and for his nation, a handsome man came up, leading a child

of ten years of age by the hand, who gazed stupidly around, as if he did not know why he was brought there; a few brief sentences were exchanged, and the head of the luckless urchin, stricken off; and as the body fell to the ground, the sorcerers came forward to catch the blood in vessels. This I was afterwards informed was kept to anoint the wounds, and was supposed to possess magical virtues. The boy was decapitated to inform the king's ancestors that he would shortly be with them. Next day three more were immolated, and their remains interred with considerable ceremony beneath a stone altar in view of the whole nation. Some wrestlers then came up in the vacant space, and after many incantations, their limbs were rubbed with blood from the boy, and they fought and contended till night. The populace then retired, but shortly reappeared with torches shedding a lurid light over the whole scene, and the elder priest raising himself on a small platform, commenced in a melancholy tune, a species of hymn, which the others took up, and the whole assembly joined in the chorus, till the woods and the distant mountains rang again with the wild and melancholy music. Twelve men like mutes, and as if carved in stone, stood near the dead monarch. The high priest, or he who officiated as such, raised a kind of crosier terminating in an ox's head; six men next came up, who clasped their hands on their breast, and stood as if awaiting further commands. They were not kept long in suspense, six more priests, accompanied by three men approached these motionless figures, who then kneeled, and I had a pretty good idea of what would follow next. I turned away my head, and closed my eyes, to shut out the horrid spectacle, but a terrible fascination overcame me, and I looked again. The men were no longer there; six priests each grasping a head stood near the corpse, as if offering a sacrifice to its manes. The senior priest gave a loud shout, when all retired. The king with the attendants who had been slaughtered to bear him company, were secretly burned, as none except a few elders of the tribes knew the sepulchres of the king and his dignitaries; I was then taken to a feast, and the banquet was prolonged till sunrise, when heartily tired I sought my couch. This nation is agricultural, and with the exception of a few antelopes hunt but little. I therefore determined to visit the cannibals, and explore the river Mini to its head waters.

I accordingly embarked in a rough canoe, hewn out of a tree

taking with me nine blacks, and Jan, as a crew, and also carrying, to bear my expenses, and for presents, bullets, guns, tobacco, powder, gay buttons, nails, hardware, beads of all possible colors, red green and blue flannels, and as the store keepers generally would say an assortment too tedious to mention.

We stopped during the heat of the day, and the men showed themselves exceedingly adroit in snaring sundry animals and cooking; our first resting place, was at an assemblage of huts dignified with the name of Forshi. The chief, when he heard of my arrival, expressed his gratification, and sent me a basket of plaintains, and boiled fish, off which I supped right royally. The next day I reciprocated his courtesy, by a pressent of blue glass beads with a yellow locket, which in his majesty's eyes, were as precious as diamonds. This potentate was a sharp trader, and as I had been before put on my guard, I did not allow him to get the better of me; he had consequently a high opinion of my judgment and business tact.

These people are exceedingly cruel and blood-thirsty, and I heard that an old man was in custody on the charge of having killed some persons, and I asked Jan, if such was really the case.

"Oh no," was the reply, "he did not really kill them, but he was such a terrible old magician, that he must die, and that it was a great shame, that such a wicked old man should be permitted to live so long."

I asked to see this noted criminal, and was conducted to a hut where I beheld a very aged man, who must have been nearly eighty; his wool was white, his limbs were shrunken and faded, and his years would soon put him in the common resting place of all. A look of inconceivable misery was stamped upon his countenance, and when I asked him, if he had no one who cared for him, he looked very sorrowfully, his eyes filled with tears, and he made no reply. Some seven or eight boys, who acted as guards taunted, and occasionally struck him. I turned my head, saw a little commotion in the crowd, and perceived a woman about sixty, who was talking earnestly, gesticulating violently, and fighting her way through the crowd to the hut, where the pretended wizard was confined. I sent Jan, who was looking piteously at the old man, to ask who she was, and what she wanted.

"She he wife, massa."

"Well then take her to the hut, and see what you can do to make the old man more comfortable."

Jan who was really a good hearted fellow and who liked the excitement pushed his way through the mob and brought the woman to her husband. His kindness did not stop there, but he took them some plaintains aud water, and by a judicious bribe, the guards promised that they would not torment them. Leaving the unhappy man more easy, I went to the chief, and endeavored to soften his heart; but all to no purpose, three tempting red handkerchiefs, and three small looking-glasses were vainly offered; the king was obdurate. I added two brass rings set with imitation stones, and some tobacco, but though he looked eagerly at the articles spread before him, still refused, and at last said;—

"The man was a wizard, he must die; all the people said so, and he could not save him if he would."

All night long, I heard the most savage cries and yells, ti, ti, or the devil was repeated; fire brands were kindled, and they danced like fiends round the enclosure—from time to time the priests harangued, and the crowd testified their approbation by a series of prolonged shouts.

Day broke, and just as the sun rose, Jan hurried up to me, and said;—

"Massa, de people kill dat man, for sure!"

Hastily pitching on my clothes, I sallied out, and saw the old man with his wife clinging around him, when she perceived me, she quitted him, and clasping my kness, with tears streaming down her cheeks besought me to intercede for her husband's life.

I summoned Jan, and as he was rather a favorite, offered higher bribes, but with the same result as before. I glanced around, and saw every black face, was made still blacker by hatred and malice; all were armed, and those who were unable to procure deadlier weapons, had large stones which were evidently aimed at the wizard. One person, more adventurous than his companions, stepped up, seized the unhappy old man, and bound him to a large log on the river bank. Another then came up, and taking a hatchet, chipped off a finger. A third, more barbarous, and wishing to protract the agony cut off the fingers, joint by joint. This last exploit, was much admired; the blood ran in torrents from the sufferer; he seemed greatly exhausted, and pointed with his gory stumps to the river, as if craving water. I raised a calabash, put it to his lips, and never did I receive a look of more intense gratitude. But the fiends thought they were acting too mercifully. A fire was kindled, and some pieces of blazing wood were applied to his head,

till the skull was denuded of all covering. The arms were next amputated in three pieces: each groan was answered with shouts of applause and derision. The magician (if indeed he deserved that title, for no specific charge was brought against him,) motioned with his head to the river, as if begging his tormentors to plunge him in the stream, but that was too merciful a death, and the idea could not be entertained for a moment. The populace joined hands, executed a war dance, performed tricks, and then resumed their hellish sport. The feet, legs, and thighs disappeared, and nothing, but the trunk, was left, still the old man lived, though suffering the most exquisite torture. His chest was next opened, his heart torn out, and his skull knocked to pieces. A funeral pyre was erected, on which the fragments were thown, and in a short time, a few ashes alone remained to show that a man once existed. Not relishing the thought of remaining in a place, where I had witnessed such a terrible tragedy, I resolved at once to quit. Packing up my household gear, I betook myself to my canoe and after some hard paddling, reached a Shepiani village, where I was desirous of staying a little while to examine the surrounding country. Leaving my effects in the charge of three of my most trusty attendants, I commenced my pedestrian tour. Nothing however repaid our search, or compensated our toil. We delved through the thickest jungles, tore our clothes to ribbands, but uselessly, and worn out in body and wearied in mind, gladly saw signs of a human habitation, and soon were in the midst of a village, and warmly welcomed by its inhabitants.

The people in this part of Africa, are more like apes than men. You can scarcely say, that they have even the imperfect noses of many of the baboon tribe, holes alone are visible. Of foreheads, they have hardly a trace, and without any exaggeration, their mouths reach from ear to ear. The fingers are short, and the thumbs exceedingly long: in fact I expected to see a tail, and thought myself among an assemblage of apes not men. But, as they were so hospitable and kind, I must in common courtesy, call them human beings.

All were painted with red and yellow in streaks, to which others had added bright green; which curiously contrasted with their sombre skins. All had blackened their teeth, and ornamented their heads with plumes of feathers of different colors. All those nondescripts regarded their visitors with the greatest

curiosity. The king paid me a complimentary visit with much ceremony, and bestowed upon me, the welcome gift of a goat and some plaintains. A single fact, will show how nearly these people approach the ape. The plaintain is easily cultivated, and yields immensely, yet the negroes are too lazy or improvident, to give even the slight attention it demanded, to secure a full crop.

The royal munificence was not confined to the gift mentioned, but I thought it expedient to decline any further civilities for the present, though offered a wife, if I would prolong my stay. I therefore continued my journey, and after a route of several days, found myself at the second mountainous range of the sierra del crystal, and the sight which presented itself more than repaid me for all my toil.

A tremendous torrent dashed down the hill at an angle of forty degrees, running and foaming like a sea. Immense granite blocks with which giants might play, were scattered here and there, though the water course and the spray, was thrown up to the tops of the trees, growing near the edge. I gazed long at the magnificent panorama, spread before me; but my delight was abruptly terminated by a slight hissing noise, and I beheld one of the most venomous serpents of that part of Africa, coiled up before me, which looking straight in my face, seemed to ask me, by what right I dared to enter upon that ground, which had so long been sacred to himself and his kindred. These queries were answered by a shot from my gun, which blew out his brains, and settled his ideas of territorial right. This reptile was about eighteen feet long, and his monstrous fangs proved that he could have inflicted severe wounds. The men skinned the monster, whose scales resembled gems, and making a bed of coals, roasted his snakeship on the embers; though invited, I refused to partake of the banquet. This species kills by bites not compression, and their chief food is composed of rats, mice, small birds, and when they can be obtained putrid fish, at least judging from the remains found in their stomachs. The men made a hearty meal, and I who was hungry looked vainly round for something to satisfy my appetite, and was searching for a small root, which when roasted bears some resemblance to a sweet potatoe, when I saw that the reeds had been slightly moved, and were pressed down, as by the weight of a heavier body. There were besides some half chewed fragments of the wild sugarcane. The most intelligent of the men closely

examined the spot, putting his eye to the ground; and then exclaimed, as if struck by a sudden conviction, " The gorilla has been here, let us go and follow him " But after a moment's reflection, raising his hand, he went a little farther, and returned with the gratifying information, that he had seen four more, or at least their traces.

I felt a pleasing terror, at the idea of encountering the monarch of these vast solitudes; for be it known, that this animal far exceeds the leopard, tiger and panther in strength, and the natives aver that the lion rather shuns the combat. I was also aware that if the gorilla had the advantage in a fight, there was little or no chance for the life of his opponent. As we proceeded to meet this redoubtable foe, the men told the most fearful tales. Two women were once washing together at nightfall, when a gorilla, tore out of a thicket, and carried one off. Her companion returned to the village, gave the alarm, and all the inhabitants repaired to the scene of disaster, but no traces could be found of their lost friend. Three days after, she returned, having been misused by the gorilla. Another, with all imaginable gravity related that a party once met some gorillas, which were making up some bundles of sugar cane to carry off; one of them captured a man, and forced him to accompany them, this individual returned home after an absence of three days, with the nails of his fingers and toes torn out by the roots. It was also, they alleged, the custom of these beasts to hide themselves in the thickest parts of the trees, watch for the unsuspecting traveller, man or beast and when secured drag up their prey with their arms; all agreed that the animal did not eat flesh of any kind; some of these stories were improbable, but all doubtless had some foundation. The more intelligent dwelt upon his origin, and asserted, that when men in this world were very wicked, they were changed into gorillas, and that such never can be caught, but wander perpetually about the forests, doing a vast deal of mischief.

The men were divided into two parties, Jan led one, I the other; advancing softly, and almost holding our breath, with cocked guns in hand, gently turned the corner of a rock and were startled by a series of deep discordant cries. Five young gorillas, on all fours, were scampering off, at the top of their speed to the forest; we fired, but vainly, the animals were too sagacious to stop, and the swiftest Arab Top-gallant himself, in his palmiest days, could not

have overtaken them. The fruit was not yet ripe, and a few humming birds constituted all the game. It must be confessed that this was not a very alluring prospect for a hungry man, one monkey, who seemed the sole survivor of his race, lurked in the boughs, but I could never accustom myself to such food. The men, Jan excepted, seized the little caricature on humanity and pronounced him delicious. Some few roots afforded me a meagre repast.

After a tramp of some days, I entered the country of the Fans, and these in comparison with the population I had just left were angels of light. The clothing of these people was very scanty; a tiger's skin hung from the neck, and they were ornamented with strips of bark, but evidently regarded covering as a superfluity. Some had filed their teeth to sharp points, and others had applied a coloring matter, which gave them the hue of ebony. The head gear, changed with the tastes of the wearers, and all carried elephant shields, manufactured out of the skin of that animal, hardened or rather smoked in the fire, which makes it as durable as iron. They also were decorated with old nails, feathers, claws of birds, and fingers and tails of monkeys, and various other trifles. As Gree-Gree, or charms to keep off the evil eye, the women were painted red.

For the next three days we tracked the gorillas, and often fell in with half-gnawed green plaintains, and other substances showing that they could not be far off. Food began to be more plenty, some monkeys and birds were killed. I supped well, smoked a pipe, and after discussing the chances of meeting and killing a gorilla, wrapped myself in a blanket, and was soon in the land of Nod.

The following morning, I awoke exceedingly refreshed. The country, is rough, hilly, and presents but few facilities for sport, but I was bent on getting at least one specimen, if no more, of this ape. Hours passed, and yet there were no signs of our prey. The monkeys chattered, the birds flew from limb to limb of the trees, when one of the men, who was well versed in field tactics, lifted his finger to impose silence, and we heard the breaking of twigs.

The noise continued, and crushed berries, and branches stripped of their fruit were thrown on the ground with a crash. We stole stealthily along, and the silence was broken by a loud fierce, and long continued bark, and a large full grown gorilla, stood before us.

He had pierced the jungle, on all fours, but when he saw that his presence was anticipated, stood erect, and faced us undauntedly, at perhaps a distance of a dozen yards. All held their breath, but kept strictly on the defensive. But though the gorilla was unused to the spectacle, he was not afaid, but beat his breast, which is their usual mode of defiance, at the same time uttering the most deafening cries. These have the most fearful sound, and seem rather to proceed from the paunch and chest, than the throat and lungs. The eyes gleamed with demoniac fury, and the crest of short hair on the forehead was alternately elevated, and depressed.

Dante could have conceived nothing more frightful, than the appearance of the creature, which stood before me. Half human, and half brutal, he seemed to concentrate in his person, all the evil qualities of both species. Had I been a believer in the doctrine of metempsychosis, I could have believed, that the soul of a murderer and miser had been condemned to inhabit such a tenement, and that the spirit longer for revenge on all its species. Short as the time had been, I took in the animal at a glance

The silence was again broken, by a series of unearthly roars; but the sagacity of the brute was not at fault, and though he again beat his breast, and stood on the defensive, he made no attack. Three guns, lightened of their contents deprived him of life, and he fell heavily to the ground. The breath was no sooner out of the body, than the men, commenced disputing about the meat, and how it should be cooked, and a difficulty might have arisen, but fortunately a deer was shot, on which we dined, which left me in quiet possession of my prize.

This specimen was six feet high, with deep grey eyes, an enormous body, a huge chest, and long muscular arms. The brains which was in a large cavity in the skull is particularly esteemed by the natives, who out of it manufacture various charms, and attribute to it the most astonishing virtues.

Ten days were passed watching for gorillas, but we saw none either young or old, and shifted our quarters to the village of the cannibals. On our route, we stopped to look at the villagers, and frequently saw women boiling plaintains, which they eat with large quantities of red pepper. All their culinary operations were conducted with the greatest cleanliness, and the most fastidious would not have hesitated to partake of the food so prepared.

There were also some men cooking before a fire, and I suspected

that they were roasting human flesh; my doubts were resolved into certainties the next day, when I saw a woman bearing a cold fried human leg and thigh. A man had been killed the night before, and the body distributed, but there had not been enough for all, the head is reserved for the king.

I saw also several small hnman bones, among the dust, and rubbish of the town. After I had rested, the king sent me word that he would be pleased to see me, and I thought it most prudent to go. Like the rest of his countrymen, this African was naked; his skin was painted red, part of his body was tattoed, he was covered with gree-grees, or signs, to keep off the evil eye, and armed to the teeth. His majesty received me graciously, and after conversing a while, and accepting a few beads, a looking-glass, and some tobacco, signified to one of the queens, that she was to make my bed, but such a couch, the Brahmins never invented such tortures. This charming place of repose, was constructed of bamboos, an inch, and a half in diameter bound together with cords; in the morning I ached from head to foot.

Looking out of the aperture, which served as a window, I saw a collection of human, legs, arms, and heads piled up at the back of the hut, and entertained some apprenhension, lest in my own person, I should literally furnish forth, the materials for a feast. These people are not deficient in sense, and are the most intellecual Africans I have yet seen, their weapons are admirably adapted for their purpose and they have some practical knowledge of botany.

The plants are gathered, the juice carefully expressed, and allowed to settle, the arrows are then dipped in the preparation, which imparts a red color to the wood. The least scratch is fatal. They have also some acquaintance with iron, and recognize its value, but as yet work it too imperfectly to turn it to any great account. The war knives, and axes, are hard, and in the hands of such experienced warriors do signal execution. In my honor a sort of review was held, followed by songs and dances, the consequent orgies were kept up to a late hour, and on the morrow we are to have, an elephant hunt. Twenty men, the flower of the tribe presented themselves at my door, and we departed, reaching the spot, which is about three miles distant from the village; but the sun, which had hitherto shone with tropical splendor and whose rays were insupportable became obscured, and the rain fell in torrents. But the natives not at all discouraged, out of the broad

leaves furnished by the forest, constructed some water proof huts and as the next day was clear, the chase began. The vines, with which the trees were interlaced, and which formed a sort of net work, were torn away and an open space cleared. The horn was then sounded till the deepest and most distant recesses of the forest rang with its shrill and unpleasant notes. A bull elephant with immense tusks, walked up, and was surrounded by at least ten men, from behind. That being one of their rules of warfare, as they say, that the beast cannot run fast, and that after firing, you have some time to make your escape. Great care must be taken, not to become entangled in the vines, for death is almost certain, the hunter then falling a victim to the fury of the enraged beast. The elephant has no settled abode, but remains in any place so long as it yields him food.

The untamed denizen of the woods, stamped on the ground and bellowed; his cries were answered by a volley of arrows, which galled and wounded, though they did not kill. He turned about and endeavored to force his way through the vines, which had been spread about among the trees, but could not pierce them. His escape in that quarter was forestalled by the men, stationed at the different points. In vain, he charged, the shields were too tough, and the wounds from the different weapons began to tell; wherever he went the spears presented their sharp points, till at length, one more correctly aimed than the others penetrated a vital part, and he fell.

Eight elephants were slain, in four hours, half of which by a special contract were mine; the hunt by mutual consent, was ended for the present, and preparations were made for cooking; but first the religious ceremonies must be performed.

The natives then began their usual ceremonies; the whole party, king and all, joined hands, and executed some pirouettes round the elephant. The soothsayer, or priest, who invariably accompanies such expeditions, cut off a piece from the hind legs of each, which was intended as a sacrifice to the rural deities, one man was killed, and his remains were sent to the village, to be sold and eaten, and such, I was informed, was the usual course on all such occasions. The animals were speedily opened, the softer parts removed, and huge fires kindled to smoke the remainder; in this art, these people excel. But though some of my companions, lauded the meat as juicy, and well tasted, I could not say, (excepting the trunk), that it

pleased my palate. The flesh is hard, abounds in gristle and muscular fibre, and though boiled two days was still tough, the trunks are tender, aromatic and delicious.

Large fires are kindled, and when there is a hot bed of ashes, the trunks are put in, and allowed to remain for five or six hours, an equable temperature being maintained all that time; the outside crust is then paired off, and the food is ready to be eaten.

Nearly a week was passed at camp, but the elephants did not come; at length however, signs, with which the initiated alone are conversant, indicated his approach, and it was resolved to try the other method in vogue among the natives. The path or road which they take is watched; a piece of very heavy wood with the point hanging downward, and to which a sharp iron has been attached, is placed in a tree, so fixed with a rope that the least touch will derange the whole. The sharp iron points enter the spine, and death immediately ensues. I returned to my hut, where one of the queens, who had come from the village, with a variety of articles, brought me some plaintains, which smelled deliciously, but which as I did not know how they were prepared, was compelled to reject.

This people, also possesses some ingenuity in the manufacture of hardware and earthen vessels, and have a natural talent for the mechanic arts, which could be raised by culture, to a high degree of excellence.

My sojourn among the Fans, was now ended, and after many compliments from the king, accompanied by more substantial tokens of regard, I with my retinue and baggage, as the skins and birds, I had collected, were heavy, went to another African village. But my way thither, though the track of the elephant was seen, and the leopard was known to frequent these woods, was as silent as the grave. Not a sound fell on the ear. A few cameleons, and lizards, were the only living creatures we saw, and we were forced to subsist on the cassava bread, the gift of one of the queens. A settlement of the Mbichos arrested our progress, for a few hours, but the people were poor, and so stupid, that we could scarcely make them understand that we wanted a little meat. Some ripe fruit, that we gathered after leaving this people, somewhat compensated us for our disappointment, and we resumed our journey with better spirits. The plateau or high ridge, we were now crossing was covered with immense granite

blocks, many of them twenty feet by one hundred long. We also saw a fine large cavern, but which I did not care to examine, as I saw the tracks of sundry wild beasts on the outside. Another presented itself, with a stream of water running through the middle, and arming myself, and my followers, we entered with lighted torches, disturbing myriads of bats, and two or three ground hogs, and small squirrels, but nothing else rewarded us. We passed over a mangrove swamp, where serpents always lurk, and one poor fellow, gave himself up for lost, when he felt the clammy fold of a snake, encircling his ankle, but fortunately, the reptile proved harmless. The rainy season had now set in. I determined to visit the Moondack; I therefore laid in a new stock of goods to pay my travelling expenses, and sent all the luggage I could spare to my former head quarters, and started afresh. I visited several African villages, and though incessant in my inquiries after game, and though I saw tracks of the elephant and leopard, I could not secure a specimen of either, but my efforts concerning the human curiosities were far from fruitless.

About one hundred miles from the capitol of the Cape Lopez country, I encountered a nation of pigmies, who lived in a community by themselves, and who were of royal and priestly descent On my entrance to the village, fifty aranged themselves in such a manner, as to obstruct our progress, but by signs, and a few words, I explained, that I would do them no harm, and offered them some beads, this act of courtesy, won the heart of their chief, and he politely asked me to pass the night.

These diminutive creatures, which seem rather creatures of some fantastic poet, or the sprites of a magician, are about three feet three inches high, jet black, and with all the negro features. The skull bears a considerable resemblance to that of the smaller tribe of monkeys, and the feet are more like hands, than the pedal extremities of the Caucasian, or any of the Indian races. The tribe, was originally numerous, but by repeated intermarriages, and a jealous desire of keeping pure the blood, they had dwindled to the inhabiting that small tract. On the following morning, I strayed to what seemed a burial ground, where I obtained a skull, which I submitted to a close examination. The intellectual organs were small, the animal organs, large, and the fingers differed widely from any I had ever seen; I also found a hand, and part of an arm. Three days were spent among the little people, who could have

passed for fairies, but for their excessive ugliness. The chief who was more intelligent than the others, assured me that in the vicinity of the Baracoons, and in the Lopez country, I should find plenty of the game I desired. After exchanging adieus, I immediately departed thither, and arrived safely at my destination, where I received a hearty welcome.

I shall at the risk of being a little tedious enter into some details about this spot, which is one of the most noted in that part of the world, and is the great centre of the slave trade of Cuba and Brazil.

There are two great slave factories or marts, one of which is owned by the Spaniards, the other by the Portuguese, both are surrounded by high walls, enclosing ample gardens, and spaces, where the slaves are permitted to range at their own pleasure. A porter armed to the teeth, and with a large whip is stationed day and night, at a small wicket thickly studded with iron; the place is securely guarded at night, and no one allowed to enter or depart without the pass word. The more unruly and obstinate are fastened six together, by a small chain, passing through a collar, attached to the neck of each. Three plentiful meals are served daily, and the greatest attention paid to the physical wants of the inmates. An able surgeon, furnished with an ample store of drugs, and instruments; resides on the spot;—this belongs to the Spaniards, the other to the Portuguese; but the internal regulations of both are exceedingly similar. The day after my arrival I visited both, and witnessed at the Spanish factory a sale, in which two young women and a boy of fourteen were exchanged for rum, nails, cloths, and some other articles.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the day, I visted the factories, a sail was hoisted on the king's palace, on the hill, and a bell rung at the factory; I asked Jan what that meant, as he had become intimate with one of the factors, and he replied:

"They is going to put de slaves on de ship."

The gate of the factory was thrown open, and six men, armed each with swords and pistols stepped out. A gang of six hundred slaves, chained two by two came next, and the procession was closed by three more Europeans, who hurried the negroes to a vessel in the offing, bound for Rio de Janeiro, and which was waiting for her human cargo. None of these men and women, had ever been on the water before, and all were exceedingly alarmed. Not one attempted any resistance, but resigned themselves to their

fate, when all had embarked, which occupied about two hours, the vessel sailed and the men returned to the factory. This was a part of their business, and they were accustomed to it. The slave trade is on the decline, and ere long, will be entirely abolished.

The king is a man, in spite of his dissipated and intemperate habits, of more liberal ideas, than most of his fellow rulers; in fact has been semi-civilized by his European associations, and is more, over inclined to extend courtesies to strangers. When he heard of my intention of travelling in the interior, he not only accorded me permission, but gave me about thirty men for the present, to act as an escort, and carry my luggage, with free license to kill what I pleased, and carry away my spoils.

After travelling about sixty miles, we reached Agola, a village whose king or rather chief, for he is a tributary to the king of the Barracoons, received me with the utmost hospitality. None of these people, had ever seen a white man before, and I am certain that they were not more amazed at me, than I perfectly astonished at them, and had I not seen them, could not have believed that such creatures existed. Figure to yourself, gentle reader, immense forms, from ten to twelve feet high, with hands and feet to correspond, and no heads worth mentioning. The quantity of brain seemed so small, that it could readily have been contained in a table spoon. I am sure that if Barnum, the prince of Showmen could inspect them, his keen tact would soon see that they would be profitable, and he would not hesitate long, ere some specimens were imported and introduced to the European and American public.

But I must say that the dinner of chickens and sweet potatoes was exceedingly welcome, and though my enormous hosts like the Gog and Magog, so renowned in the chronicles of "famous London town," as the gigantic squires of "Bluff King Hal," contemplated me with the greatest curiosity, my appetite was not abated, and I did ample justice to the provisions on the board. Hitherto I had experienced the greatest difficulty in communicating my ideas, and was determined to remain here, till I had mastered the language sufficiently to converse, and as there is a great similarity in all the African dialects, I succeeded in three months. I always kept an account of dates, and when I returned, found I had lost only one day.

I again commenced my wanderings, and encamped about twenty

miles from the place of my last sojourn, in the hope of securing some game, but was again disappointed, and felt a little sore at heart, as I had began to call the last place home, the natives were accustomed to me, and I to them; the encampment was made, and I had caught only a few birds and was returning, when I saw a buffalo, but he did not notice me. I whistled and was joined by my chief man, and together we faced the beast, but he was as motionless as before. The African listened attentively, looked round, and said.

"A leopardess is near, I can smell her."

Myself and my companion cautiously moving on one side, saw the object of the buffalo's dread.

The animal likewise saw us, and was very doubtful, which she should attack, the men or beast; the buffalo reassured by the presence of his human allies, took to his heels, with the greatest rapidity, and soon disappeard in a cloud of dust, and I availed myself of his unceremonious exit, to shoot the leopardess, who had been watching, her prey, vanishing from her clutches. The men, after reserving some of the meat and tongue, for immediate use, passed the balance of the day, and part of the night, in smoking the residue of the flesh. There was a trifling dispute about the gall and brain of the leopardess, both of which are highly valued.

The tracks of elephants were noticed, and late in the afternoon, I saw a large bull standing by a tree. But, as I had only pistols, I was compelled to summon the man, who acted for the nonce as my head huntsman, who after a short survey of the ground, said, "I shall kill him in five minutes, or I am a dead man."

The African after cocking his musket, dropped down on all fours, the tall grass, which came up to his waist, entirely concealing him from observation. We watched till he was out of sight. The air was very still, and the least noise could be heard. Suddenly there was a smoke, accompanied with a clear ringing sound, and a loud crash, and we knew that the elephant had fallen. One of his tusks, I gave to the hunter, the other, I kept myself.

The sun was very hot, and all the camp, was at rest, when the young boy, who waited on me, and who was at a distance of about thirty yards, screamed fearfully, and I sprang up to see what was the matter. A boa constrictor of the lagest size, had coiled

itself about his body, and the poor lad saw the most terrible death impending. I caught the monster by the throat, and endeavored to choke him off, but the snake, though unused to such encounters, slipped out of my grasp, and wound himself, yet more closely about the chest of his victim, and raising his head, looked at me as much as to say; "I have him now, and will not let him go," and again tightened his folds; but the shrieks of the sufferer, and my cries brought five men to our assistance, who seized the serpent, and held him by the neck, till dead. I now turned my attention to the boy. Fortunately for himself, just before he sat down, he had had a chill, and wrapped himself in two blankets, and threw over both a mat. This thick covering somewhat impeded the serpent. The upper limbs and chest were exceedingly bruised, but after a somewhat rough operation, which was agony to my patient, I ascertained that no bones had been broken; the blood flowed profusely from his lips, and nostrils, and I was afraid lest he might die. The head huntsman, who was a person of great experience, was not alarmed, but summoning others to his aid, kneaded the limbs, at the same time, powwowing, or as he said to drive the devil out, which the snake had left behind him. These incantations were magicial in their effects, lulled their patient to sleep, and threw him into a deep perspiration; he did not wake the next morning till ten o'clock, exhausted and weak, but out of danger. Some birds were cooked for his refreshment, and three days after, he was as well as ever.

A herd of immense buffaloes, about thirty in number came up to the spring to drink, and summoning all my force, I made a grand rush. These animals are exceedingly fierce and shy, and when wounded, very dangerous. They pass the whole day in the jungles, or the shadiest valleys, and seldom quit these retired spots, unless driven by necessity.

These animals are seldom caught, and as rarely killed, as the droves in which they live, make them exceedingly formidable opponents. All the men but two ranged themselves in a line, and discharged their pistols. The beasts roused from their sluggish apathy looked, as if they scarcely comprehended, what was passing; and were rooted to the spot. Another shot from a musket, which slightly wounded their leader, alarmed them terribly, and they commenced a hasty and disorderly retreat. The unwieldy animals tumbled over each other pell-mell, broke into a rude gallop, and

pawing the ground uttered snorts of defiance. The two men, who had been selected for that duty, stood at the corners waving boughs drove them back again; three bit the dust, and wonderful, as it may seem, all wounded in the same place right under the ear. When the rest of the herd saw their companions fall, they were seized with madness, tossed themselves about, and spurning all obstacles, attempted to leap over the men's heads, and trample them under foot; but the waving branches reduced them to a sort of sullen obedience, and they paused to breathe. At a signal from the head man, all stretched themselves on the ground, with their faces to the earth, and the buffaloes raising a cloud of dust galloped away. None was injured. I also killed on this day, a specimen of the wild bull, which was with the buffaloes, and which is rare in that part of the country.

This animal, which is very strong, is about the size of the lighter English cattle, but with larger and sharper hoofs. The tail is bare with a tuft of black hair at the end, several inches long. The muzzle black, the ears long and pointed, with a fringe of beautiful silky hair, the eyes soft, black, and lustrous; the head bears some resemblance to that of a deer, the horns, which thrown back, in a graceful curve, are corrugated, and fienly polished. The motions, of this interesting creature, are fleet and graceful, and he bears some resemblance to the antelope. That was the only breed of the kind, that I saw in my African tour. My baggage was now too heavy to carry, and when I returned to the village, to see what could be done, I had an intervew with the king, who kindly consented to take charge of my preparations and put them in a place of safety.

Unlike most of the other people I had visited, and who trade with Europeans, either directly, or indirectly, every man in this village knows where the ashes of the kings were placed, and this coustituted the only lion of the place.

This was situated near the seaside, in a grove of noble trees, many of great age, and all splendid, which imparted a kind of pleasing gloom; the under brush had been cleared away, and the greatest care is taken of the spot, which is held in the utmost veneration. The dead are not put in the ground, but lie on the surface in large coffin shaped boxes, some of which were new, and others crumbling to pieces. The sight to foreigners, who had been accustomed to the habits of civilized life, was terrible in

the extreme, one case had fallen to pieces, and disclosed a grim and ghastly form denuded of flesh mouldering away. Another with the lid off, showed the skeleton of a boy of fifteen, as clean, as if prepared by the hand of an able demonstrator. Legs, arms, and skulls lay around in heaps, and presented the appearance of a perfect Aceldama. These mementos of mortality were mingled with whitish dust, brass ornaments, and the bones of animals which had been slain to accompany deceased, in what the natives suppose his last journey.

Two old women bent with years were inspecting these disjecta membra of mortality, and muttering incantations. I was curious to see the remains of the king's brother, who had not been dead long. This coffin was closed and lay on the ground, with an immense number of pots, pans, kettles, and ivory, and brass possessions according to the desire of the old prince, who even in death, was not separated from the ornaments he so dearly loved. A hundred bodies in different stages of decomposition, some covered, and others exposed, being the slaves who had been killed to bear him company to the spirit land, were scattered about. The night was dark, the heavens overcast, and I almost trembled. A priest fantastically attired came near me, and commenced his chant, but was so absorbed in his task that I was unnoticed; drawing forth two birds, their throats were cut, and the blood sprinkled in a circle, he next danced a pas seul, and retired. I was again alone, but still I feared, the place was regarded with great and peculiar sanctity, and if I was found meddling, my life might pay the forfeit of my curiosity. I was, however, undeterred, and seizing a skull rapidly decamped.

The crows and vultures roosted in the trees, and filled the air with their doleful cries; howlings of other beasts of prey in the distance were distinctly heard. I was anxious to quit a spot full of such horrors, and as I rapidly retreated, trod on a skull, which I crushed to atoms. This has been for years, the only place of burial of the tribe, and when it is too full to hold any more bodies, the grass is set on fire.

I now commenced my preparations for my last and most important tour in Africa, and was compelled to delay. The natives are very slow, and waste much time needlessly, and weeks elapse before they can be induced to leave a locality which affords them either food or recreation. This sometimes was advantageous, as it gave me time to recruit, write a little, and prepare my specimens.

I loaded the Cecela, a small well built vessel of sixty tons, with various stores. Tobacco, earthen and iron ware, pipes, calicoes, red cloth, cheap swords, beads, brass kettles and some provisions. The captain was a half bred Portuguese negro, an excellent sailor, but tricky and dishonest; at least a dozen different languages were spoken on board, and some two weeks passed, on the voyage, which as usual was barren of incident. After making some stoppages, I landed at a Camma village, which as it had no name, I called London, unloaded my stores, and sat down for a few days in a hut.

The Camma people are far from handsome, but even in a land, where such hideous specimens of humanity meet the eye constantly, they are conspicuous. Considerably above the average height, they are terribly proportioned. The eyes are of a yellowish black, and exceedingly prominent; the ears, large, pendulous, and shaped like those of an elephant; the nose bears some resemblance, but is not so well shaped as a similar organ in the gorilla, and the beast has at least one advantage, that is, expresses some intelligence; whereas these faces have one uniform, stolid dark look. The back part of the head is flat, and the forehead retreats; the arms are rather longer than in the whites, stout, and muscular; the ankles very thick, and the hands more like those of an ape, than a man. This conveys but a faint idea of the inhabitants of the Camma country, and it would require the genius of Gall or Spurzheim to classify this most curious race, this cross between mankind and the monkey; but I hope and truly believe that other travellers will confirm my story. I bought a large and handsome canoe, and prepared for an up river excursion, proceeding about thirty miles the first day and then resting. On the second, we made a pretty village, and found all the inhabitants, but one man and his wife, absent, engaged in the manufacture of palm oil, and caught some rare birds. A goat was presented on which we dined, and resumed our journey, passing through different villages, with unpronounceable names. At my last stopping place I heard that some of the natives were forming a party to go on a gorilla hunt, and offered to join them; adding at the same time, some tobacco and beads. In the evening I was invited to a grand feast and asked to form one of the party.

The provisions were cooked, and a company of ten started; a great part of the way was under large trees, casting a grateful

shade. I was eagerly examining the grounds for traces of animals, when to my joy I saw some half bitten roots, and knew that we should soon find the animal of which I was in search. I was not disappointed, I saw some half bitten roots, and knew that we should soon come up to a gorilla. There was a slight rustling of the twigs and I heard the cry of a young gorilla for its mother. Fearful of attracting its attention, we concealed ourselves in a clump of small trees, and the animal after a close survey of the neighborhood, ventured to descend from the tree, in which it was perched, and taking its seat upon the ground commenced eating some berries. The mother soon joined her offspring, a chattering ensued between the pair, and the other raising herself on her hind legs soon perceived us. But for this we were prepared, the guns had been loaded. I took a correct aim, and she fell, ere she recovered from her astonishment.

The noise of the guns alarmed the young one, and he flew to his parent, embracing the body and endeavoring to ascertain why she did not move. Jan and myself approached, and seizing him by the arm endeavored to capture him, but with wonderful dexterity, he wrenched himself from our grasp, and ran up a small tree, at the foot of which the men stationed themselves, who after the lapse of two hours, seeing that master gorilla did not descend, fired.

The creature's natural instinct warned him, that such a resting place was dangerous, and he prepared to vacate the premises. As the gorilla leaped to the ground, a man stood ready with a cloth to throw over his head, and the animal was thus secured. In spite however of all precautions, the men did not escape, as one was severely bitten in the arm, and the other had a piece taken out of the fleshy part of the leg. The next question was how he should be brought to the village, as he was, though very young, exceedingly strong, had a savage temper, and was by no means backward in showing it. We had caught one of the wonders of the world. Pride would not permit us to abandon him, and yet, we were all afraid to go near him.

At length a way was found, a forked stick was prepared, in which his neck was thrust, and in this guise we entered the village with our surly captive, which the natives eagerly crowded to see.

The new comer, did not at all relish the attention which some of the boys were disposed to lavish upon him; he snapped, snarled, and plainly said in manner, "Let me get at you, and I will teach

you another lesson." His eyes meantime, gleaming with malice.

As he was now safe, I ordered a bamboo cage, with strong slats, to be made, in which I deposited the prisoner, after removing the stick which hurt his neck. As he was now safe, and the bustle and excitement, attendant on his arrival had subsided, I was able to examine this extraordinary creature, which seemed so closely connected with the people around me. As I before said, he was not full grown, and might be considered as an infant.

This specimen was about three feet, eight inches high, with very black face, and hands.

The hair commencing at the eyebrows, and ascending to the crown was of a reddish brown. Both lips were covered with short coarse hair.

He was fully able to stand alone.

The hair on some parts of the body was thicker than on others, and was jet black. I approached the cage, and whistled to Harry, for such was the name I gave him. He did not change his position, glanced savagely at me, and when he thought that he would not be seen made a lunge at my leg, and succeeded in tearing the pantaloons. He then looked at me, with the most savage malice, and retreated to the further end of his cage. Two days thus passed, and the animal rejected every species of food. The third day, he nibbled the white parts of a few pineapple leaves, but his temper was unchanged, and he threatened to tear in pieces all who approached him. The fourth day he succeeded in breaking the bars of his cage, and making his escape.

I instantly secured my gun, as I was determined to take him dead or alive, at the same time issuing orders, to surround the wood, and use all exertions to take him; as I thought of course, that he would at once seek his native wilds, and I was exceedingly surprised at hearing a savage growl from under the rough boards, dignified with the name of bedstead, found Harry there, and felt that he showed every inclination to retain undisturbed possession of the place. He was again secured, and I went to the door, which I barricaded from the outside, and then, looked in at the windows. Harry stood in the middle of the room, carefully examining the different articles around him; fearing he might damage some which I could not replace, I sent to the village for a net, and opening the door, the beast, as I expected, rushed out, and was speedily entangled in its meshes; not at all

daunted even by this unfavorable position, Harry kicked, struggled, and attempted to bite, but the attention of eight men, proved too much, and greatly to his regret, Harry was reconducted to his former quarters. He refused to eat, would not come when called, sat moping in a corner of his cage, and his temper was still morose and sullen. He remained thus for two weeks, at the end of that time, I resolved on starvation, and for three days, neither food nor drink was given him. I then went near the cage, with some berries in my hand. Harry looked askance, hesitated, and then timidly took the fruit from me, but from me only would he permit such familiarity, but no further persuasions would induce him to do more. When half starved, he would accept sustenance from me, but no black man, woman or child, dared come near him, and the very sight of their sable faces would throw him into paroxysms of rage and terror. Again he escaped, and was seen hastening with all possible speed to a clump of trees near my hut, but was intercepted. He then made for another, and on his way, overthrew a poor fellow, who nearly died of fright. The delay proved disadvantageous to Harry, though he contrived to mount a tree, where he was dislodged, caught by four men, conducted to his former quarters, and fastened to a post; even then, he was scarcely safe, though a strict guard was maintained. But such close confinement, ill agreed with an animal, which had been accustomed to such a wild and free range of forest land. His temper was more savage than before, and at the end of ten days, he sickened and died. During the whole of this time his ferocity was unabated, and though he evidently preferred me to any one else, I was only tolerated, no more; he would do his best to tear my clothing, and the last time I saw him alive he grinned at me savagely. From this experiment, I should say, that the race was incapable of domestication. I felt sorry when I had lost the little animal it cost me so much trouble to capture.

But other matters claimed my attention; the natives were speaking of the hippopotami, and as they were scarce, and hard to take, some of the more experienced hunters and myself agreed to go out one night in a canoe to see what what could be done, and about three nights after started in a canoe. We had scarcely gone more than a hundred yards down the stream, before we heard the noise, which heralds the approach of these creatures,

and we saw six or seven at a little distance, but which, fortunately for us, did not perceive our party; I tried the first shot, and was successful, and subsequently killed three, all of which I rescued. The boat received a violent shock, and was capsized; it seemed to me, however, the animals were more anxious to escape, than do damage.

But I wished to hunt them on land and blackened my face, for, all the animals here, have a mortal aversion to a white skin. At last, a large male came puffing and blowing out of the water, and we cautiously approached him from behind, as this animal is dangerous; the light was uncertain, but I fired. The beast turned round, and my companions fearing the consequences took to their heels, but there was no reason for so doing as the hippopotamus had received its death wound.

The flesh I gave to the natives, who had a feast, at which two ungainly visitors from a distant tribe were present, who bore a strong resemblance to Peter. Necks they seemed to have none, and their heads were apparently set upon their shoulders, without that appendage; their lips were thicker than usual, and they had no thumbs, this was a peculiarity common to the nation; the heads were so curious that I will scarcely venture to describe them; their legs were short, and their arms long out of proportion.

A heavy rain fell the next day, and being obliged to keep within doors, I sketched the hippopotamus; these animals are very stoutly and even clumsily built. The lower jaw is mobile; the male in some cases, attains the bulk of an elephant. The stomach, when the animal is overgrown, is pendulous, and drags upon the ground as they walk. The feet have four hoofs, and can be stretched; the skin is almost bullet proof, and with a few exceptions almost hairless. The tusks and teeth are of the finest and whitest ivory, and constitute a considerable article of traffic, as they are extensively used by the dentists in Europe and America. They are gregarious, and associate in flocks, ranging from twenty to thirty. I once witnessed a contest of considerable duration between two large males.

Their mouths were opened to the fullest extent, their eyes flamed with rage, and they threw their whole strength into the combat. Each tried to annihilate the other, and the most terrible blows were inflicted with the sharpest tusks. They advanced and retreated, plunged into the water, disappeared, and retiring to the

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surface, renewed the contest. The water was tinged with their blood, and both combatants were convulsed with rage. The victory was at last decided, and one was killed The other coolly swam away, and I saw no more of him.

Tired of this life, I assembled my party, and after a tedious travel found myself on the banks of the Ogobay. This river abounds in fish of all kinds, and a cast with a net will procure a meal for a dozen; the gold and silver fish, were exceedingly plenty. The banks are the great resorts of pelicans, swans, marabouts, which can be seen at all hours, and what to me was more acceptable crocodiles were to be had. I also heard that the nest building ape was to be found in the vicinity. No traveller has ever yet seen, or taken this animal, and if I am so fortunate, it will be an era in natural history. The natives who are found of the flesh of the crocodile were anxious for the sport, and we soon found ourselves on the water. The vessels used on these expeditions are of light draught, about fifty feet long, and three broad. The gunwale is only a few inches above the water; they are propelled by paddles, and move rapidly A number of crocodiles were seen in the water, and others were sunning themselves on the sandbanks. I made my arrangements, but rather preferred catching my prey on land, to the water, as if wounded in the latter element, they sink to the bottom and are lost.

Fortune, however in this instance favored me, I saw an inmense fellow on the banks, taking his ease among the reeds, I stationed some five or six men, between the river, and his monstrosity, and then fired. He was not hurt, the balls rattled off like rain, but he was considerably alarmed; rose heavily, looked around, opened wide his tremendous jaws, disclosing the sharpest, and most glittering teeth, and then having satisfied himself that danger was brewing, hastily made for the water, but clubs, and harpoons drove him back. He paused for an instant, and measuring the space between us endeavored to turn round, but he had no sooner effected his object, ere I was on the other side, and as he moved, stabbed him with a spear under the fore paws; this with them is a vital, and almost unprotected part. The huge reptile squirmed on the ground, and cast a longing look at the fluid, which alone could give him relief, but rose again and collecting all his energies tottered to me, I saw at once, that I had a fair chance, and shot him through the eye, he rolled on the ground, and expired without a groan.

During the contest, in which the crocodile was defeated, a wild bull of the species, I have before described, wandered to the waters edge, and was so unfortunate, as to attract the notice of the crocodiles, one of whom seized him by the snout, and hurried him into the water. Resistance was unavailing, a few bellows, a little blood, and the monster was sure of his prey.

The negroes had killed another crocodile, and the mate of the wild bull, which had been devoured, one of these reptiles measured eighteen feet long, the other twenty.

The flesh of the crocodiles, and that of the bulls was exceedingly acceptable to the villagers, who held a high festival on the ocasion, and created me a fetish or priest.

The king was not present at the banquet, but sent me a mess of pottage by a comely young black damsel, who he informed me, was to be my wife, but with many thanks, I informed his majesty that I was compelled to decline the honor My table was now amply supplied with fruits of all kinds, and the natives vied with each other, who should load me with presents. The next day, I was invited to witness a solemn ceremony at the chief fetish or prayer house. About noon the next day, I was punctual. The fetish or prayer house was a tall thatched building, supported on posts, all of which were covered with rags, bones, and feathers; a rude altar was erected at the eastern end, and twelve priests, with their wool plaited in long tails, and hanging down their backs, were in attendance, all were naked to the waist. The faces, arms, and necks of all these worthies were tattoed with representation of panthers, crocodiles, and serpents, executed with considerable taste, six soldiers guarded ten men

The king was seated on a kind of throne, covered with leopard skins, near the altar The priests commenced a low wail, and gradually raised their voices; all the congregation, joining in the chorus, till the building rang wilh the discord The king now descended from his throne, approached the altar, and knelt, as if in silent prayer, then approaching the shrine, grasped a monkey by the head, stabbed it to the heart, and held it up before the people, who were now grovelling in the dust. The priests then joined hands, and danced round the sanctuary. Each as he passed the monkey, made a profound reverence.

Tired of this frivolity, I raised my eyes to the roof, and saw that the beams were decorated with human heads, and it at

once flashed across my mind, that the luckless beings before me, were human sacrifices, and with a sense of loathing horror, I prepared to leave the temple. But the idea struck me, that I was a stranger in a land of savages, that I was perfectly helpless, and that though now a favored guest, should I alarm their prejudices, I too might be sacrificed. These considerations induced me to remain, and I was confirmed in my opinion, when I saw an old woman watch me closely.

A rude block was now brought forward, and the first chosen, kneeling down, his head was severed from his body at a single blow; he made no resistance, which indeed would have been useless, all were decapitated. The bodies were carried away, and reserved for a feast, at which all the village magnates were present. Fortunately no invitation was extended to me. The moment, the last man was beheaded all tumultuously quitted the temple, and I going to my hut, took my gun, some cassava bread, and a book, and was absent about four days, as I judged by that time, all traces of the tragedy would have disappeared.

When away I saw a quantity of birds and small monkeys, but shot nothing worthy of preservation. On my return, I was greeted warmly by the king, and invited to a banquet of hippopotamus flesh and fruit. His majesty then informed me that those men were offered up to the manes of the departed princes, that their heads, when preserved in the temple kept the nation from the influence of evil spirits, and that so long as they were renewed, no harm came on the Camma people, I made no answer, and after a somewhat lengthy harangue, the king dropped the subject, and I sought my couch; the king was the sole speaker.

The next morning at day break I was rather unceremoniously roused from my slumbers, by the intimation that a sick woman wished to see me, and found when I reached the spot, that the king's eldest daughter was extremely ill with fever; as I never travel without a small medicine chest, I prescribed, but the remedies did not act, and the king said, that if she did not recover in three days, or was not better, he would send a messenger to the spirit land, and ask if something could not be done, six men were selected, who were bound and guarded in a hut, and the knife of the executioner was raised to the throat of one of the messengers to the celestial regions, when the whole community was aroused by the unexpected advent of a famous medicine man and priest, who was making his

tour through the country. This, great dignitary was conducted to the bedside of the sick princess, the man's life was spared for the present, and sanguine expectations entertained of the speedy recovery of the illustrious patient.

This renowned medicine man or doctor, was a tall gaunt black individual, blind of one eye, and dressed in the most fantastic manner.

An ornament of grass, and another of antelopes hide, hung from his neck ; from the latter a box was suspended. Alternate stripes of leopard and elephant skin, were crossed on his breast, a pair of tanned bull skin leggings protected his lower limbs, a string of bells depending from his waist constituted his sole ornament, and a plume of black and red feathers completed his attire.

He had evidently devoted some time and pains to his personal adornment. His face was hideously painted, two large crimson streaks were drawn around his eye lids, and two spots of the same color, were on each side of his mouth ; one hand, shoulder and side of his mouth was white, the other coresponding parts of the lightest possible green. This grotesque figure, after a low obeisance to the king, opened his little box, and displayed a variety of small bones, and crocodiles teeth ; he next placed on a stool before him, a small looking-glass, and a black flask containing powder, and the reputed abode of a powerful spirit, constituted his apparatus. At the same time he rattled some fish bones, and showed a human skull, which he repeatedly addressed. In fact, he wrought himself up to a great pitch of enthusiasm, and quivered in every limb, with excitement. A fellow beat a drum with two sticks, and the doctor called out in a loud voice, for all in the village to approach, while he would look in the glass, to see who was the evil spirit that occasioned the mischief. All answerd the summons, but the right man could not be found. At last the doctor declared, that there was a great and powerful spirit, and the moment, he quitted the palace, all the evil would be ended. The king after some reflection decided as I was the only stranger, he meant me, and that I must take my departure. Remonstrances were useless, and I was forced on a very short notice, and with as many of my followers as could be induced to accompany me to quit the town.

With the retinue I could collect, we proceeded still further in the country, making encampments and stopping wherever any attractions presented themselves. On the first of November I made

an excursion on the river Fernandvas, and landed at a village, whose king was connected with the slave factories on the coast, and who had traded considerably with the English and Scotch. His dialect was a mixture of the broadest Scotch, and the worst negro patois. Still I could understand him tolerably.

These people are not cannibals, and it was a relief to be in the midst of a tolerably civilized community. In the afternoon, I walked in a tract thickly covered with wild pineapples, of which the white parts had all been devoured, thus showing that the place was much frequented by the gorilla, and before we had gone much further we came across, a female, with a young male about six months old, clinging to her bosom. She was much alarmed, at the unexpected presence of the strangers, but mother like, would not abandon her offspring, and putting herself in a position of defence attacked us. But she was impeded by the young one, and could make little or no resistance and was soon killed. The little creature crawled to his mother, sucked at her breasts, but could extract no nourishment.

I took him in charge, and as he was much more docile than the other soon became fond of him, and he learned to know me, but as I was unable to procure any milk for him, and as he could take no other food, he died in three days after his capture. The mother differed widely from any of the species yet seen, and I am of the opinion, that she was of a separate class, the heads of both were small; the young one was put in spirits. The next day, I sauntered out lazily with Jan, with guns on our shoulders. The ground was covered with flowers of every imaginable hue and odor and the air swarmed with clouds of the most brilliant birds; or glancing at the trees, I observed singular looking mud cones, and a moment after, heard a chattering, which could only come from the throat of an ape. I was enchanted, as I was convinced that I had discovered the nest building ape, a species, which some naturalists assert, does not exist, and of which no specimen has yet been seen in Europe.

Though rather tired, with the labors of the day, and more inclined to repose, still this discovery, lent me strength and energy, and regardless of fatigue, I hastily pushed on; I climbed into the nest, and saw there a very tiny specimen. My doubts were now changed into certainties and I resolved to wait till the father should make his appearance. Two or three hours elapsed, and it

was nightfall, ere I heard the peculiar cry, which heralds their approach, and which was now particularly audible. At last, I cautiously rose and saw him sitting with his feet resting on the lower limbs, and his arms firmly clasped, about the trunk, evidently preparing for slumber. I did not hesitate, fired, and in a moment, he fell at my feet.

Dreading the night air of that climate which is particularly fatal to foreigners, my trusty squire and myself, carried my prize home, and I devoted the whole of the night, and the greater part of the next day to its preparation. This animal, which somewhat resembles the chimpanzee was full grown, and in its general structure, bore considerable likeness to the rest of its family. This was three feet eleven inches long. The skin is black, but not so tough, as that of the gorilla; in most parts it was covered with black hair, except on the legs, were there is an admixture of dirty grey. In strength, it is decidedly inferior to the gorilla, and would not be such a dangerous opponent.

The nshiego, (as the natives call it) possesses some constructive talent. The nests are composed of leafy branches fastened with vines, to the tops of the tallest trees, generally about twenty feet from the ground, though I have seen them, but not often, as high as fifty. Trees, without limbs are generally chosen, as serpents and birds of prey, are their greatest foes, and the nest is placed at the very top, buried in leaves. In shape, they are perfectly round, and throw off the rain, no mason could plan them better. They are generally located in the vicinity of the plants and berries, on which the animal feeds, and when there are exhausted, another spot is sought. The nest is seldom occupied more than ten days at a time. These animals are not gregarious, and even the females, do not use the same habitation as their mates, but have a lodging of their own, though in the same tree.

Two days afterwards, I strayed in the same spot, and was agreeably surprised at hearing the same cry, and rushing to the spot, whence it proceeded, found an ape in a tree devouring a pineapple. The creature, when he saw me descended, and boldly faced me. I threw a stone at which my four-handed adversary took umbrage, and rising to an erect position, tried to clasp me in his arms. But though he had the will, he lacked the power, and a well directed blow from the muzzle of my gun knocked him flat on the earth. He rose, moved off some two or three steps. I aimed, the fire

took effect in the left breast, and he died without a struggle. This specimen was four feet ten inches high, the hair silvery white, and the teeth much decayed.

These negroes are revengeful beyond imagination. I had unwillingly displeased my head cook, and he resolved, that I should die. He confessed, after he had prepared dinner, that he had put arsenic in some of the dishes, which he had obtained from my cases, and which I constantly carried with me to prepare specimens. Fortunately the dose was too large, and acted beneficially. The king was furious, and would have slain the man on the spot; but I interceeded for his life, and the fellow escaped with a hundred lashes. The act was politic, and endeared me greatly to the people, among whom I resided.

In March, 1858, I started for Goumbi, leaving all my effects in the charge of the king, and taking with me a number of articles, departed in a canoe, and after ten days, sail, reached the place of my destination. On the way there, we saw a vessel manned by the pigmies, whom I have before mentioned, and the nests of several apes, all tenanted; but as I felt weak from the effects of the poison, I did not stop, but proceeded as rapidly as possible. On my arrival a place was alloted me, where I erected my lares and penates, and after a repose of three days, I felt strong enough to recommence the labors of the chase.

Eti, a famous hunter volunteered to acoompany me, and we soon saw the tracks of a gorilla.

"He is here" said Eti, "I am sure" the man was right, as to the animal, wrong as to the sex. Creeping cautiously along, we saw the object of which we were in search, and keeping out of sight, but within aim fired, and like the rest we had met, her skin and bones enriched my collection. It proved to be a female, and was (which is rare in this species) nearly as large as a male. The measurement was taken on the spot, but such dry details are uninteresting to any, but the scientific reader.

We camped out, and for the next four days, all were generally employed in cutting branches, bringing poles, and fussing about. I undertook the commissary department, and a sharp keen witted little negro acted as cook under my directions. Some chickens, which constituted part of my luggage, were converted into soup, and I killed two antelopes, and a wild bull. These furnished our table pretty well, and no one had any just cause for complaint

In the evening, after pipes had been handed around, and we were all enveloped in clouds of fragrant tobacco, I asked the senior huntsman, a venerable negro with white wool, what his people thought was the origin of the gorilla, and whether, he had seen many of them. The old man shaking the ashes out of his pipe, answered in the words of the following legend:

" Africa was more highly favored, than any other country in the world, and had more natural advantages, but that it was true that the whites were smarter, than the dwellers in the fiery land. That in the beginning the world was governed by a great magician, who had four daughters. To each of these, he assigned lands and countries, and Africa was bestowed on his second and best beloved daughter. and when her portion was given, the magician also created many beasts expressly for her convenience. The elephants were to carry her from place to place, their flesh would serve her as food, their tusks could be converted into ornaments, and their skins into shields. The birds were to fan her, with their wings, and sing for her, and the trees to produce the most delicious fruits, and wherever she walked, she trod on flowers. For a season she was happy, but this could not last forever, as it chances that a mighty sorcerer had beheld the queen of the Fan country, was smitten with her charms, and she was inclined to listen favorably to his addresses. But her father interfered, forbade the match, and introduced, a tall and hideously ugly man, who he said was the proper suitor for his daughter; it must be confessed, that the young lady was not in love with the personal charms of her adorer, who only had one eye, situated in the middle of his forehead, but who by way of compensation, had four arms, and eight hands. Precious gifts were laid at the feet of the young Princess, but she proved obdurate; the aid of the powers of darkness was invoked, but all uselessly, the damsel would not smile.

Mean while a fierce war ensued between the rival lovers, in which the gentleman who boasted of eight hands was defeated, and vowed vengeance against his conqueror; who took refuge in an asylum furnished by the princess. There the time passed happily, and the favored swain gave his mistress lessons in magic, till she became as great an expert in the black art as himself. Circumstances, also were propitious, her father was distracted by a revolt in his own dominions, and could uot interfere, and the queen of the waters, who held her court, under the earth, was a friend of both, and at

her cave, glittering with all the gems that earth can produce, the nuptials, were celebrated with great magnificence. The discarded lover, who could scarcely witness such happiness, created lions, tigers, and leopards, and sent them here in droves, to vex, harass and destroy the people; filled all the beautiful meadows with serpents and the trees with vultures and eagles. Nor did he stop there, the atmosphere was clouded with gnats and all sorts of insects, and the inhabitants could scarcely breathe. The evil fairies inhabited the swamps and no one could go out after dark, as they were sure to be devoured by an enormous lion, which was on the watch for such persons. The snakes, or demons, wearing that guise, strangled the babes in the arms of their mothers, and killed the sleepers, so that there was not a household where death had not been.

The Princess, who loved her people was almost distracted with grief, and knew not what to do. Spell after spell was tried, but vainly, the evils increased. At last she determined on war, and the parties met on a large plain; all the flower of the nation was there. The sorcerer had large armies of well trained lions and tigers, which obeyed his motions, and fought with the regularity of men. The Princess on her part had millions of well taught bee birds, which hovering in the air, picked out the eyes of her opponents, and thus she won the day. But the husband, for whose sake she had risked so much was killed. A dwarf who was attached to the service of the sorcerer, knew his weak part, smote him there and he fell; but the Princess was not without her redress. When a body of men on the other side came into her hands, she would not kill them, but would change them into beasts, and could not decide at once what forms, they should take, and till she had determined, ordered that they should be fed, and given all that they desired. Finally after much deliberation, she resolved, that she would create a new animal resembling man, but without the power of speech, and that they and their descendants should forever lament they were not men, and cherish a hatred to those more favored than themselves. The Princess also decreed, that in all, or nearly all the contests with men, that they should be overcome, though the ape should be the strongest, and that this should continue, till a being with a gorilla for its father, and a woman for its mother should appear on earth, and that he should break the chains imposed on his brethern and kinsfolks."

Thus ended the story of the huntsman and all made their exits.

About ten o'clock the next day, when I was in the bush, and screened from observation by the thick foliage, I heard a deep sound, which increased, and cautiously peeping out, I saw a female gorilla, and its young, quietly feeding on the pineapple. Stealing out the other side, I called my entire force, and the whole party surrounded the animals. The mother uttered a howl of mingled rage and despair, attempted to escape, but feared that something worse might happen, and squatted upon the ground in sullen desperation. As if saying "you are the strongest, do what you please," one of the men threw a lasso, round her neck, and the other a cord round her arms; thus overpowered, she made no efforts to free herself, but looked at her young.

This imp, proved more refractory than its mother, tried to escape, but was eventually secured, though not without considerable resistance. On examination, it proved to be a female, was wicked to all who ventured to approach it, and cast longing looks towards its mother, as if desirous of being cradled in her arms. Roots and berries were placed before the captives, but the mother remained motionless, refused to eat, and the next morning was found dead.

The little one was not so much affected by imprisonment, was strong and healthy, and freely partook of the food that was offered, but was untractable. No one could go near her, and when she meditated an attack, looked straight in the eye of the person she meant to assault, and I often narrowly escaped a grip from her long thumb. She was exceedingly rapid in all her movements, but like the others of her race, captivity made quick work with her, and one morning, she was found dead.

Confinement acts similarly on the beasts of all tropical climates. Lions and tigers are afflicted with pulmonary complaints and softening of the brain, and all the apes, that have been brought to Europe, have never survived more than two years. The cannibal nations of Africa, which consider human flesh as the greatest of all luxuries, are far more intelligent than the others. The gorilla ranks next as a delicacy of the table. The difficulty of procuring this meat, may cause a higher value to be put upon it.

On the tenth of August, accompanied by my little cook, Jan and another man, I commenced a pedestrian tour in quest of game, but my toils met a scanty reward. My labor was not thrown away, for I met a second race of pigmies, if possible more singular than the first. These dwelt about thirty miles from my last

stopping place, and merit a particular description. The first class of pigmies, that fell under my notice, though hideously ugly, were marked by no particular deformity, but these people differed greatly from any I had yet seen in complexion. Their skins were of a reddish black, an indescribable hue. I had never seen before, and exceedingly tough. The arms were longer than those of most apes, and what was most singular of all, their skins were covered with tufts of whitish grey hair, which is annually shed every fall; some three or four among them had also large scales on the breast, which I was informed, came from a species of leprosy. The gift of speech alone distinguishes these from the animal creation, and in fact, I doubt whether they possess the fine instinct of the gorilla.

No advancement has been made in the arts, the preparation of a little coarse crockery, constituting their sole manufacture. A few birds and monkeys, are the only animal food of which they partake. The huntsman, who was with me, understood their language, and they told him, that they rarely left home, though some were now absent in a canoe, which they purchased, as they are not sufficiently intelligent to construct a vessel, and they were too feeble to walk far, and the exertion was too great, some of them had never been out of the village. Their dwellings were the most inferior of any I have yet seen, mud plastered with thatched roofs. The habitation of the nshiego is far better adapted to his wants, and shows greater architectural skill. The interior was destitute of any ornament, scarcely a seat, and the proprietors either reclined, or squatted on their hams. Their beds were dried leaves. These people rarely quit their own village, as they are exceedingly afraid of wild beasts, possess no arms, and have no strength to repel their attacks.

Returning to my settlement, I made all my preparations, and after a march of five days resting at night, arrived at Obindje, where I unpacked the goods I had brought with me, and among others a small clock, which was the object of the greatest admiration to all beholders. A chief brought me in a female gorilla, he had just killed, and mentioned, that there was a new species of ape to be found in the woods, hard to take and seldom seen.

This was enough, a hunting party was organized, and we started at break of day. I stepped into a colony of ants, and doubtless crushed some thousands to death, the survivors avenged their

comrades, by stinging me very severely. I had scarcely freed myself from these intruders, when I heard the cry of Roo loo, Roo loo, repeated several times, and looking up a tree, saw a large ape, who eyed me with the greatest astonishment, as if he could not understand, what it all meant. Brief space was allowed for these meditations, my companion and myself fired. and his career was then and there ended

No naturalist has ever described, and no European nas ever yet seen this species of the monkey tribe, the nshiego, it is unique. The head and face are oval with whiskers running below the chin, the cheeks are sunken, and the cheek bones exceedingly prominent. The facial outline of this creature was better than any ape I have yet seen, and more nearly approaching the human physiognomy. The hair is long and black, and the arms are partially bare. The volume of brain was very great, and the resemblance to the human race, extremely marked. Its general structure does not indicate so much strength as the gorilla; but in point of cunning and sagacity the Noolookamba far exceeds the other. The natives could give me no accurate details, as to its temper or habits, but all agreed, that it was very shy; and hard to catch

My mode of life in the encampment, is extremely simple, , I rise about five, and drink a cup of coffee, prepared after the Freneh fashion, and very strong, take to the bush, and hunt till ten; then breakfast, stuff birds, and rest till three, again in the bush, till dark, when dinner is served, and I again resume my labors as a taxidermist, and sometimes sit up half the night, as a few hours, would spoil a specimen, which perhaps, I could not replace. Packed up camp, and struck into the forest, the flies are exceedingly troublesome, and leave a sting behind, which is not so easily removed. A delicious subacid fruit, is found here in the greatest quantities, of which the gorilla is exceedingly fond. Here I trusted I should find something to repay me for my journey, and I was not deceived. An immense male rushed out of the woods, and greeted us, with a terrible howl, resembling the roll of thunder. When I first saw him, he was distant about twenty yards, and I was on the point of firing; when the huntsman stopped me with: "Not yet."

The beast considered us attentively for a few moments, struck his breast, uttered another fearful yell, and then stood still. Ferocity and despair were marked in every lineament of his face; the

huge teeth were ground against each other, and I could distinctly hear the noise they made. The skin of the forepaws moved backward and forward; he uttered a third roar, and again advanced, till he was within eight yards. My companion, who had been watching all the proceedings closely, then whispered "steady," and I fired, both balls taking effect.

The old huntsman afterwards told me, "dont fire too soon, if you miss, he will undoubtedly kill you." The thumb of this animal was 5 34 inches in circumference; its arm was a very large bunch of muscles, and has singular grasping powers. I can readily believe, that it can haul to its perch, and keep there any passing man or animal. But that it frequently seizes leopards I doubt, as none of the ape tribe are carnivorous. The face of this animal was black, the body covered with grey hair, and the chest, which was naked, resembled parchment.

The forests abound with precious woods of which ebony and box are the most common. The former is found on all the ridges and hills; the leaves are long, sharp pointed, and of a very dark color, in the younger trees, the black is mottled with white. There are also pink, chestnut and yellow woods. One tree, which fell to my lot, weighed after all the incumbrances had been removed 1500 pounds.

A temporary indisposition compelled my removal home, whither I was carried on a litter of boughs. Here I must bear witness to the kindness of the hard worked, overtasked women. Their culinary skill was taxed in the preparation of little delicacies to tempt my appetite. Their benevolence did not stop there; when I awoke, I was sure to find some dusky form watching me, ready to gratify or anticipate my wishes. Two others were sick at the same time, and the whole village was infected with the idea, that some evil spirit was prowling abroad, and that the sorcerer, who called him out, must be slain, or the place wouled be depopulated.

A boy of about ten years old was seen with some gree-grees, or charms, and the wiseacres of the community at once pronounced, that he had become a wizard, and subjected him to the severest tortures. Alarmed and suffering exquisitely; the lad confessed, all that they desired; that was sufficient. I saw what turn matters would take, and offered any price for the culprit's life. But my prayers were unheeded, the mob fell upon him, and he was soon cut to pieces.

I had now perfectly recovered, and secured two rare birds, and the ivory eating squirrel. This little animal follows in the track of the elephant, and even digs up their carcasses, for the sake of feeding on the ivory. Its long and sharp teeth often causing dents, which are remarked in the ivory brought from this part of Africa. Meat had become exceedingly scarce, the sour cassava bread no longer sufficed, and to see what could be done, the chiefs and myself formed a hunting party late in November.

At six one morning we started in our search after food. The tracts of several leopards were seen, but we were in quest of food not game. Two bulls grazing in the valley near a stream, were killed, and their flesh sent to the village. The women who accompanied us took charge of the cooking department, and prepared the tongue, and some stakes, after their fashion; our appetite for animal food being thus satisfied, after a pipe or two, we began to look after other matters. We crossed a high table land, and distinctly heard a cry resembling the whine of a sick child.

"I am sure," said Jan, that it is a nshiego; we soon came up to it, and saw the female on all fours, sucking her young, while she was feeding on the berries which grew plentifully around her. We had approached stealthily, and she was so engrossed in her occupation, that she did not hear us. She fell dead at the first shot. The little one clung to its mother, as it had concealed its head in her bosom, at the first report of the fire arms, plaintively crying hew, hew.

The mother was black, but the offspring was pure white, and as it was only a foot high was readily secured. The parent was the second specimen of this kind of ape, which had been shot by a European.

The mother was apparently full grown, with thin eyebrows, and eyelids, and sparsely covered with hair, where the skin was naked it was white. This color attracted considerable notice, and my sable escort, jestingly, affirmed, that if the gorilla was their cousin this ape was surely mine. The little one, after some attempts to win a look from his mother, attached himself to me, received the name of Peter, soon knew it, and would come when called. Three days and kind treatment reconciled him to his change of life, and he greedily devoured rice, plantains, and crackers. Three weeks after his capture, he was perfectly acquainted with the village, and would go into some of the huts; but after a short visit, invariably

returned to his own place. He tolerated the blacks, was passionately attached to me, and was never easy in my presence, unless, I held his hands, or stroked his head. Peter had one fault, which was a very great inconveinence both to myself and my friends. He was an incorrigible thief, and though often severely beaten, sinned again, and as grieviously as before. At mealtimes, he would perch himself on the roof, and if he saw anything that particularly struck his fancy, would extend his paws, and whine. If no attention were paid to his demands, he would enforce them by shrill cries, till the coveted article was given for the sake of peace and quiet.

He prefered boiled meat and fish to any other kind of food, and when he saw me drinking coffee, would if it were sweetened beg a sip, and if it did not suit his taste, would point to the sugar. He was fond of eating with the negroes, but never transgressed the rules of etiquette, as practiced, in that part of Africa, but always dipped his hands in the dish, at the same time with his sable hosts. He grew so rapidly, and became so intelligent, that I had strong hopes of taking him to Europe with me, but the thought struck me, how would he bear such a climate as London in the winter. Peter was exceedingly susceptible to cold, would hover about the fire, for hours at a time, and for the sake of the animal warmth would share the couch of some of the villagers. For this offence, he was severely chastised, but it was always repeated, no matter how often, or how severly, he had suffered for it.

Peter had also another inconvenent failing he was a great drunkard, and no liquor ever came amiss to him. Beer and Scotch ale were his greatest favorites, and he broke my brandy bottle, after drinking the greater part of the contents, and when I returned, I found my precious pet on the floor in a state of deadly intoxication. He was gay, frolicsome, seemed in good health, and, relished the food given him; one morning he seemed downcast extended his arms to be nursed, and refused both food and drink; he was put to bed, and warmly covered up, but all was useless, the next day, he was like the rest, dead. As Peter increased in height, his skin assumed a yellowish tint.

Several days after, as we were hunting the wild pig for the sake of its flesh, I heard a noise, which I thought was distant thunder. This was repeated, and I plainly recognised it, as the voice of a male gorilla, to which the female responded, but more faintly.

The forest shook with the sound, and the noise resounded from the most distant hills. In a few seconds the animal himself came out of the jungle, and was joined by his mate. I was alone, had only small shot to kill birds, and how was I to face this formidable pair. I shouted, but no one replied, and my companions in whose domain I was an unwelcome guest, were determined to punish me for my rash intrusion. Fortunately, one of my truest friends, missing me for some time, came after me. He was no better furnished with amunition than I, but at a risk fired. The animals looked at both, and then without further ado, trotted off, at the top of their speed. The beating of the breast can be heard at least a mile off. These animals are in the habit of gnawing trees and saplings, which accounts for their decayed teeth. Some trees from four to six feet had evidently been cut through, and the pith, which is sweet food extracted.

For the next few days, I devoted myself to bird shooting, and secured several rare specimens, utterly unknown to European ornithologists. Again there was a lack of meat in the village; the supplies came irregularly, and at long intervals from the coast; guns were put in order, such food as we had, wrapped in large leaves accompanied by some of the women, and cheered by all the juvenile part of the community, we started on our journey.

The party was divided. Six were to go in quest of wild hogs gazelles, bulls, or any other eatable animal. The rest with myself, should stalk the woods, for gorillas, one man said he would go single handed against the gorilla. The whole party, declaimed against such imprudent boldness, representing that if he found a gorilla, and did not kill it, certain death would be his fate. But no persuasions, could induce him to alter his determination, he was resolved, that he would take the consequences, and went alone. A half hour, or more elapsed, and we were busily engaged in shooting the birds in the trees, when we heard the repeat of a gun, followed by the roar of a gorilla. Guided by the noise, we hurried to the spot, and there beheld a huge gorilla, holding a broken gun in his hands, and glancing at the man, who went out to try his fortune singly. This unhappy individual was prostrate on the ground, and the drops of the death perspiration, had already gathered on his brow. The gorilla was motionless, as if satisfied with the mischief he had done. It is one of the characteristics of this animal, that after it has killed or seriously wounded its opponent, it con-

templates the bleeding mass before it, as if enjoying the misery of its victim.

Profiting by this knowledge, I drew my pistol, and fired, and the beast mortally wounded, breathed his last, and fell on the ground near the man.

Having thus avenged the deed we turned our attention to our suffering comrade. Leaves possessing healing properties. were quickly gathered, dipped in water, and bound on the parts, where he most complained of heat. He had lost a great quantity of blood, and the bones protruded from the abdomen. As I never travel without a whiskey flask, a portion of that fluid, mixed with water was poured down his throat, and he temporarily revived, and was able to tell us, how he was reduced to his present fearful position. In the gloomiest part of the wood, he met a very large gorilla face to face, and the animal did not molest or notice him. He then loaded his gun, and when at a distance of eight yards, took as he thought a good aim, but the ball whistled by the gorilla harmlessly, merely grazing his side. The alarmed and infuriated beast, annoyed at the report, made a number of hostile demonstrations. The hunter in his turn, began to repent the rash step, he had taken, and hastily reloaded his gun. But the action had not been unnoticed by his sagacious adversary, and the gorilla is as usual with his tribe, before commencing an attack, uttered the scream we heard, and stood still for a moment. The gorilla then tearing at the gun, wrenched it from the hunter, the weapon exploded in the scuffle, which maddened the gorilla with fear. The beast then approached the man, and with one blow reduced him to the state in which we saw him. Nothing could be done for the poor fellow, except to make him comfortable, and give him what he asked. He was taken home, and in three days died in the most excruciating agonies. I examined the gun, which the gorilla had taken, and found it completely useless. The iron work was bent double, and some of the wood splintered. An unlucky accident befell me with this very gorilla. The men while I was waiting on the wounded sufferer, volunteered, to skin the animal. But to have time as they supposed, and to make a good specimen, broke all the bones, and crushed the skull.

The dry season had now regularly commenced, and the air and water teemed with life. Immense flocks of parrots, from the purest white, to the most gorgeous red and blue, perched on the

trees, and were shot down by dozens. The flesh of these birds always tastes of the substances on which they feed. When rice and fruit form the staple of their diet, they are tender and well flavored. There was consequently no want of meat, and every one was satisfied. The flies and other insects are intolerable pests, and one can scarcely stir, or move, without a drove settles on every part of the body. The snakes are greatly feared, the constrictor hangs from the tops of the branches, and concealed in their leaves, drops down on the traveller, and whether it be man or beast, is a matter of perfect indifference. In the twinkling of an eye, the prey is enveloped in his deadly and crushing folds.

The curse of this conntry is the malignant fever, which spares no stranger, and I did not escape this terrible visitation. Pains of every description racked me from head to foot. I did not exist, I suffered. Nerves, bones, muscles, and sinews all quivered with agony and I hovered between life and death for more than two weeks. I began to weary of my position; my clothes ware nearly torn to shreds, and I could not replace them in this quarter of the world. I needed some friends. But in spite of all these obstacles, I completed, the time, I expected to stay.

Another species of game, promising fine sport, has latterly presented itself. This is the Bongo antelope, the most elegant of its race, and unsurpassed in fleetness. Information was brought to the village, that a large herd had been seen, in a southerly direction, and the people were all in a state of ferment. The flesh is juicy, tender, and esteemed as a great delicacy. A party of twenty men volunteered to go out as hunters. But as the occasion was in the eyes of the whole a season of particular solemnity, it was determined that the priests should make an incantation. The wise men of the tribe, also thought, that sacrifices should be offered to the deities protecting the hunters.

A sort of scaffolding was erected, and analtar formed of two large stones and a piece of wood. Three priests painted in all the colors of the rainbow, ascended to the shrine, their head dresses were ornamented with the feathers of the grey parrot. The high priest was naked to the waist. His chest was painted with bright green flowers and lizards. An ornament of panther's claws encircled his neck, and a coronet of crocodiles teeth rested on his brow.

The community prostrated themselves in the dust, and the chief priest, ascending to the highest step, waved his hands over

the assembled multitude. Three parrots were brought, which were beheaded on the stone altar, and their blood, which was caught in a hollow dish, was mixed with earth, and carefully put aside. A small fire was then kindled, and the bones of the parrots consumed. The hunters then advanced two by two, and kneeling before the chief priest, were anointed on the crowns of their heads, the palms of their hands, and the soles of their feet, with this mixture. Some of the ashes of the parrots, were thrown among the crowd, and the ceremonies were ended by a dance. This unction was intended to confer strength and power on the warriors, save them from all the ills, "to which flesh is heir" and guard them from the snares of the evil one. There is a superstition that satan at times adopts the form of a lion, or a tiger to lure men to their destruction.

Thus protected, and trusting to good luck, we commenced our journey. Three miles were soon made. The African bird of Paradise, with its bronze back, and snowy wings, acting as a kind of advance. These birds are near the antelope, and rarely quit his vicinity, as they are fond of the insects, with which this animal is infested. To our great delight, we saw before us, a herd of thirty, most of them males cropping the fragrant herbage, and as yet unconscious of our presence. The manner of attack was speedily arranged, and a shot fired, which took effect on a fine male. The herd terrified at the loss of their leader, tried to effect a retreat, but vainly. Pieces of cloth fluttered before them, drove the animals back to their places, and two more fell. The hunter naturalist, in the wilds of Africa, feels severely the want of a dog; with a brace like those at the Cape, I would not fear the redoubtable gorilla himself. Three more antelopes were streched on the sward. Ere the morning was over, we killed twelve more, in all sixteen; with these, to the great joy of the inhabitants, we returned to the village. The people attributed our success to the efficacy of the incantation, and the power of the anointing. The color of this antelope is a bright chestnut, with a white crescent below the eyes. Each side is elegantly variegated with stripes. The following day, I went out in a swamp, with two others, to catch crocodiles. But the reptiles, as if guessing our intentions obstinately refused to quit their hiding places. On my return, I was received with distinguished honors. A grand feast had been prepared of the antelopes' flesh, and the place of honor was reserved for me. Besides the meat

which the hunters had brought in, wild parrots, cassava bread, and pigeons graced the board. I was imprudent enough to sit down in my damp clothing, and caught another fever, which confined me to the house for more than two weeks. As I was recovering a trader came with a canoe, who considerately offered me a passage to the Gaboon country. As I was likely to be benefitted by change of air and scene, I did not hesitate, and was soon on my way to my old quarters.

I arrived in Goumbi, to find my old friend, the king at his last gasp. When he knew I was in the village, he asked for me, and I went at once to his bedside; when the old king saw me, he said "help me for I am dying."

But it was too late, nothing could relieve him, and the following day, he expired. Then commenced a wail throughout the town, which did not cease for three days. At the end of that period, the body with great pomp, was escorted fifty miles down the river, to the place of interment. Then arose the cry what should be done to those who had put magic on the king? I exerted, but vainly, all my influence to stop these proceedings. My entreaties were disregarded, my bribes rejected, and a terrible tragedy enacted, which I shall never forget.

Every man was armed with axes, and all the boys with spears. The doctor began the work by exclaiming—"There is a woman, who lives near the river. She is one of those, who has bewitched the king." The words, were no sooner uttered, than the crowd, hurried, to the house of the ill-fated female, and dragged her to the brink; she exclaimed "save me white man, save me."

I hastened to the door, and recognised in the woman they were dragging to certain death, the sister of a man, who had rendered me many services, and accompanied me in several expeditions. But I was compelled to remain silent though her agonizing and unavailing cries for help long haunted me. One victim secured, a second must be had at any price. The crowd, who now began to thirst for blood, demanded of the magician, who was honored with the title of doctor, another. The sorcerer was silent for a moment, and then said.

"That woman, who lives near the palm tree grove, has put magic on the king."

This culprit was a member of the royal family, advanced in

years, and of a dignified, and majestic presence. She well knew what was her impending doom. Facing her enemies she said with a haughty composure:

"Lead me where you will, and lay to my charge, what you see fit, but woe to you, if you do not succeed; my blood will be on your heads. I am a princess, and never did wrong to any one."

Awed into silence, the mob offered no discourtesy, and her captors led her to the water's edge. Two other victims were selected, and thus ended the first act of the tragedy.

The second act of the tragedy was opened by the doctor, who in a most inflammatory speech, mentioned why the prisoners had put magic on the king, who had been killed by such practices. The first had asked for some salt, and been refused. Hard words followed; he put magic on the king, and he died. The princess was accused. All the members of the royal family but she, had children. She therefore hated the king because he had offspring, and she none. She was therefore like the other guilty. A third had asked for a looking-glass, and had been denied. The same fate was reserved for her, as the others. All were found guilty, and as the name of each was pronounced, he or she was saluted with shouts and execrations. In these ebulitions of popular feeling the relatives of the accused were forced to join.

The sorcerer, the executioner, and the criminals entered a canoe, which was rowed into the middle of the stream. A portion of some drugs, which the doctor assured them, would facilitate their entrance into paradise was handed to each, and they were then decapitated. While this second act was performed, the drums were beating, the people laughing shouting and yelling, and all seemed mad with excitement. When the heads were taken off, all tried to cut a piece from the trunk, which they cast into the water, with shouts and execrations, when all was done, each returned home. The popular thrist for blood was satisfied, and all was quiet.

I determined to go to the east, for a little while, as the scene just described, had not been beneficial to my nerves. I therefore got a canoe and ascended the river. On the way, I stopped at the hut of a man, who had showed me some kindness, and found that he was no more. He had been trampled to death by an elephant, which he had wounded mortally, but which had strength enough left, to stamp his slayer to death. Sundry presents of fruit vegeta

bles, and birds were sent me as I passed along. After a safe and uneventful journey, I arrived at the village of Ashonga, in the Ashua land.

The crush of people, who had never before seen a white man was immense. When I asked for game, I was told I must go further west. A message was brought from the king of the next village, with goats and plaintains. A desire was also intimated that I would also visit that place. To this invitation, I replied, by naming the time, when I could start.

On the day fixed, the attendants, who were to carry my baggage, presented themselves. Under their guidance, I speedily arrived at what may be called, the capital of that part of Africa. The best hut in the place was put at my disposal, and after I had been installed, the king presented himself. I was exceedingly surprised at his appearance. This prince was then very far advanced in life, and in fact had every symptom of extreme old age. He walked slowly, and was bent double. His face was painted white on one side, and red on the other. His majesty made me, a long speech, ending with a cordial welcome. He further added, that as he understood I was a great hunter, some of his men should accompany me on an expedition. A present of plaintains, goats, and sugar canes, was handed to me, and the royal party, the king walking last, made their exit.

Next day, the king's children, all middle aged men and women came to pay their respects. For the next three days, I was besieged with visitors. This nation has made considerable progress in civilization. They are coal black, remarkably neat in their person, are always clad in gross cloth tunics, of black or brown, and their bodies are generally painted red.

While on this journey I killed some wild bears and a white faced hog. This latter is a very large animal with an enormous head, and curling tusks, the body is immensely stout. He is very ferocious, makes desperate fight, and has often been known to wound his antagonist mortally. We saw traces of the gorilla, but met none of the animals. While passing through the woods, we heard the peculiar cry of the nshiego, and as there was no other way of getting at the nests, the trees were cut down. This was my first opportunity of inspecting the habitations of these apes, and found that the reports of the natives were correct. The animals were killed, and the skins added to my collection.

Next day as I was making my scanty toilet, I was surprised to see one of the men who had accompanied me on the chase, painted with several colors, and covered with savage trinkets. He was standing before a heap of stones ornamented with leaves and flowers. His hands were clapsed, and he was deeply engaged in contemplation. At last he turned to me, and said "I am going to the world of spirits."

"What do you mean."

"Last night my father's ghost appeared to me, called to me, and I must go."

Alarmed at these intentions I sent for Jan, and told him that I wished to see the senior huntsman.

The man in obedience to my summons came before me, and making a low obeisance, asked what was my pleasure. I told him what I had just heard, and begged that he would use his influence, in dissuading the man from so wicked, and foolish an action. He listened attentively, and replied, that if his father had sent for him, he must go, and refused to meddle in the matter. The would-be suicide, had not yet committed the deed; his countenance was resolute, and all expostulation would have been useless. Some were indifferent, and others considered it a highly meritorious action. These last affirmed that he would soon be in the presence of all the gods, and charged him with messages to their deceased friends and relations. All then embraced him. This victim to superstition, leaning back, stabbed himself to the heart, and fell at the foot of the altar he had erected, bathed in his own blood. He cast a wild glance around, raised his arms, and then sighing deeply, closed his eyes on this world forever. A grave was speedily dug, in which the body was placed with a canoe to carry him over the water, and a spear to protect him from the assaults of his foes. The corpse was almost invisible from the leaves and flowers with which it was covered. Two parrots were killed and thrown in the grave, lest food might be wanting, and the ceremonies ended. The business of the day proceeded as if there had been nothing to interrupt it. No game was taken, and after a weary journey of two weeks, returned home, exhausted, footsore, and half starved. The day after my arrival, I had my hair cut, and as the locks fell to the ground, all the people rushed forward and eagerly seized them. The king followed the example of his subjects, as he alleged that they would make excellent

charms, and that in all probability he would never see a white man again, and that it was valuable to keep. Nearly three weeks elapsed before I was recovered sufficiently to commence my projected tour among the Akingi. After holding out great promises of prospective reward, I succeeded in inducing some five or six of my recent acquaintances to accompany me. The prairies were swampy, and the walking far from agreeable. We passed through a dozen villages, (as this part of Africa is populous) and as usual the inhabitants came out to gaze on the white spirit. At noon we reached the Origun river, which we crossed by means of a bridge. This was the first attempt of the sort I had seen in Africa, if indeed it might be called a bridge. This consisted only of a rope, strung across, and attached to trees on the opposite side. The passenger was forced to grasp the rope, push along in the best manner he could, and with his feet hanging in the water, trust to providence for his safety. The river is very deep, the current very strong, and a single false step, death. I watched with considerable interest those who crossed, as I was determined to go last. All with great fear and trembling I reached the opposite shore safely, though with the loss of a gun, and a pair of shoes, which dropped in the water. Nets were cast in the water and a plentiful supply of mullet and other fish landed.

These when roasted on the embers made a very acceptable meal. We had scarcely finished before we were saluted with the roar of a gorilla. All seizing their guns at once hastened to the spot whence the cries came, and there saw a full grown male. As soon as the animal perceived us, he balanced his body with his arms, stopping every few seconds to beat his breast, and barking loudly. The hair rose on his head, and his wrinkled face was convulsed with terror. His eyes, gleamed like burning coals.

For the first time, I had the opportunity of observing this animal's lower limbs. Though short and massive, they cannot support the upper part of the body, which tottered under its weight, the animal was therefore compelled to rest occasionaly. While in this posture he beat his breast. The contest was short; in a few moments he was stretched lifeless on the ground. A young female was brought in this afternoon, and the flesh proved, a very acceptable banquet to my compañions, but I never bring myself to touch it. The next morning, as I was walking in the meadow, I saw one of the most enormous serpents of this part of Africa,

which kills by poison not compression. Fortunately, it is slow in its motions and very sluggish, and I killed the creature before it was aware of my presence.

This serpent is double headed, and exceedingly dangerous to the traveller. It has the habit of concealing itself under sand, and suddenly darting on the passenger. The fangs are buried in the flesh, and the sufferer must die. It is very short, rarely exceeding four feet in length, and has three horny projections on each head. The king of the Apingi came here to meet me bringing presents of fruit and fowls, which were exceedingly welcome. The following day, we entered his village. All flocked in a body to see the wonderful white spirit. Some were of opinion, that I should take off my shirt, to see if I were white beneath, or, if I were merely painted. Others asked me to remove my foot casings, so that they might see if I had toes like themselves. Soon however, all retired, without putting me to the inconvenience of making my toilet in public. I now cherished the hope that I would be allowed to prepare for rest. But I was disappointed, a modest tap informed me, that some one wished an audience. I answered the summons, and saw two club footed men, who informed me by signs that they wished to enter. I complied with their request, and was subjected by my visitors to a close examination, after which, with many bows, they withdrew. I have rarely seen a blind or deformed African, and was much struck with these two. I afterwards learned that they came from a tract of country where all the inhabitants had a similar configuration of the feet. Anxious to witness the effect my musical box would produce, I placed it on a small stool, and was exceedingly pleased with the sensation it caused. Some approached with fear and trembling, as if in the presence of a deity. Others, less superstitious, came to examine it, and all were facinated with its tones. While it was playing, I observed two snakes coming out of their holes to listen. The boys hastened to kill these intruders, but when I learned that they were harmless, I would not permit such cruelty. I watched these creatures, which writhed their bodies about in the most pleasurable excitement, and kept awkward time to the music with their heads. The people were so charmed with these contortions, that of their own accord, and without any solicitations of mine, they placed some fruit before the snakes, but which was untouched. My fame had spread far and wide, and some lepers came from a

considerable distance to ask for relief, and to beg that I would free them from the terrible disease with which they were afflicted. These men, for the sufferers from this disease, are nearly all of the male sex, had been originally jet black, but were now a kind of yellowish white. Their skins were thickly covered with glittering scales from head to foot. One had lost all the joints of the fingers, the other of the toes. The body was visibly crumbling, ere the spirit took its departure. These were soon joined by a third patient tormented with elephantiasis, whose limbs were swelled to thrice their natural size, and who could scarcely move. Though I sincerely compassionated the sufferings of these people, I could do nothing to relieve them, and was forced to dismiss them, in the same position as when they came. I hoped now to get some rest, but was again disturbed by hearing a hoarse cry and a sharp growl. There was a little commotion and all was again quiet. In the morning, I heard that a goat had been carried off by a leopard, and that a trap was set for the thief. Sticks were cut and planted in the ground about two feet apart. These were bound together with strong vines, and two sticks firmly lashed down were put on the top. A goat was then placed in one corner as a bait, and the leopard, who could readily enter, could not so easily escape.

This people have attained a sort of semi-civilization, and what for a black is very strange, they will work. The men have some ingenuity in the fabrication of a kind of cloth, (much in demand) made from fibres, which some of the natives cultivate, and in which they have a particular property. The country abounds in the oil palm, and, though it would yield an immense return, the natives do not seem to be aware of its value and great importance. Thousands of tons are annually wasted.

The women here are no better treated than in other parts of Africa, and though not originally ugly, have made themselves hideous with lines drawn all over their faces. A curious incident ocurried which may give the reader some idea of the customs of that part of Africa.

Shortly after my arrival I engaged a woman, who was neither young nor handsome, as maid of all work. I also promised that if she would be faithful I would make her a handsome present at my departure, and had every reason to be satisfied with the servant I had secured. One day after dinner, I was astonished at seeing a

troupe of people enter the hut, who announced themselves as my relations, and thanked me for the honor I had conferred on the family. I was at a loss to understand what they meant and begged for a clearer explanation. I was then informed that I had taken their kinswoman to wife, and by the custom of the tribe, I was their brother, friend, and relation. To this I replied, that they labored under a mistake, that she was my hired servant, that I had not then or at any future period, the slightest idea of a more intimate alliance. My would be kinsfolks were not prepared for this, and I ended the farce by driving them all out with a stick. I thus practically informed them that I was not disposed to contract such a marriage.

This little incident did not prevent me from being invested with the dignity of a prince of the tribe. The king himself informed me, that my music had driven away all the evil spirits that besieged the tribe, consequently the produce had been more abundant than had been known for years. That it was doubtless owing to my gracious presence. He was resolved to make me one of the elders of the people, and a day was set apart for the cermony.

At the time which had been fixed, a body of the chiefs with their wool anointed with palm oil, and covered with sparkling dust, armed to the teeth, and dressed in their most costly robes, escorted me to the great square of the village. There I found the king sitting in a rude chair of state, draped with red grass cloth. Two boys with leopard skins thrown over their shoulders, confined at the waists with yellow girdles, constantly waved large palm branches around him. A group of women, decked with their richest ornaments, tatoed, were seen in the back ground. The king himself was painted red blue and yellow. This last being the state color, predominated. Green is used in mourning, and for those advanced in life. All the sorcerers were present tricked out in the most hideous paraphernalia. There was a great display of leopards teeth and claws, alligators bones and feathers. The high priest surpassed them all in the bravery of his ornaments. This dignitary sported on his brow, a well prepared snake skin, with the head hanging behind, as if alive; he was this day called mosli, and was painted in the most grotesque style.

The doctor of the tribe howled savagely, and all joined in the chorus. Two of the most famous wrestlers of the village, naked to the waist, exhibited their skill, and their efforts were rewarded with the most rapturous applause. The king now placed a coronet of brilliant feathers on my head, and the kendo was rung. This is a

rude iron sceptre, with bells, is seldom used, except on occasions of great state, and has been in the nation for many years. Another had been made, embellished with strips of leopard skin. This last was handed to me, with strict injunctions to keep it, and never allow it to go out of my possession. The high priest then told me, that if I lost, or gave it away, the most terrible evils would be my lot, and that ill luck would attend me wherever I went. I was now an elder of their tribe. Thus I may say, I left England a commoner, and returned a noble. Rude tables were erected spread with all the food that could be produced. A goat roasted whole, and decorated with flowers, graced the centre. Palm wine was handed round in buckets, and a scene of the greatest merriment, followed by the most terrible intoxication ensued, the women as well as the men, partaking of the fiery liquid. The two club-footed individuals, who had been excluded from the ceremonies, came to the hut, and begged a little palm wine, that they too might celebrate such an auspicious event. But I thought proper to deny their request, qualifying my refusal with the gift of some tobacco, a looking-glass, and a string of beads, with which they departed well satisfied. At this interview, they told me, some of their history. They had been captured in a war with a distant tribe, by whom they had been purchased. They were considered as an inferior race, and discharged the most loathsome offices. The next day was quiet, and strange as it may appear, there were no traces of the last night's excesses. As I could scarcely expect to raise a party, I passed the time in visiting the houses of the weavers, who manufacture the cloth. The pieces are commonly two feet long, and eight inches wide, and are colored before they are woven. They make excellent mosquito nets, bars, and are impervious to rain. These articles constitute a considerable traffic, and sell rapidly on the coast.

The woods abound with leopards; one of the men, brought a full grown male to my hut, and asked a tremendous price for the skin, which they value for ornaments, and to which a particular sanctity is attached. All parts of this animal are of great use to the negro. The flesh is seldom used except in cases of great distress. The skin of this beast, (which is generally cut with great care) is used as a belt. This girdle, after it has been duly consecrated by the fetish man, is to render the wearer invulnerable from all attacks; either from wild beasts, armed foes, or evil spirits. As each animal yields only one ornament, the skins are costly.

While I was speaking to the chief to day, a man came up to the place where I was standing, and putting his hand on my head, said, "you are mine, you are my master, and I belong to you—I will serve you."

This ceremony is called bombo, and is a curious feature in the servitude of this people. If a slave be hardly treated by his master, or is otherwise unhappy; he goes to another village to choose a new owner for himself. The person so selected cannot refuse the offered boon. The former master can visit the place, and if he find his slave, has full liberty, and every privilege afforded to retake him. I had some difficulty in convincing the poor fellow that I did not need his services, and that I should soon quit Africa. At this intelligence, he exclaimed, that there was no luck for him in this world, and seemed greatly afflicted. The rest of the day I was compelled to act as laundress. No European or American, can have any idea, of the filth of these people, from the highest to the lowest. The women could scarcely comprehend, that it was a matter of the utmost importance, that the clothing of the whites should be frequently washed. My duties in this department ended, I prepared for the last trip I shall make in a canoe.

I saw that my luggage, not forgetting my shoes, (which are exceedingly important to a traveller,) was carefully packed, took leave of my host, and sailed in a canoe to the village of Angoli. A chief, who came to see me, asked me to visit him. I shall probably remain for a week or two. We arrived at midnight, and were received by the head-man of the village, who conducted me to the quarters the king himself had devoted to my service. Having signified my thanks for this courteous hospitality, I commenced housekeeping, by hiring a woman who was to act as cook. This time I took care that there should be no error as I distinctly informed, my new hand maiden, that she was not under any circumstances to consider herself my wife. I also impressed on her mind the fact, that a residence under the same roof was not to constitute a close bond of union.

The next day, I saw the famous yellow spider, which is generally as large as a sparrow's egg, and of all colors, though yellow generally predominates. These insects bite fearfully, and the wound is sometimes painful, and difficult to be healed. In some respects they are beneficial and act as scavengers, by ridding the huts

of cockroaches, by which they are infested, and which are sometimes as large as full grown mice. The spider conceals itself in the crevices, and drops upon its prey before its neighborhood is suspected. Nothing very special occurred on the journey, except when camping out, I accidentally trod upon a spider. The insect returned the compliment with a severe bite on the instep, which felt at the time like a puncture from a red hot needle. The wound soon healed, and no ill effects ensued. As we were going down the stream an old woman in a canoe ran against us, and our little craft was capsized. Fortunately no lives were lost, and taking our soaked boxes and selves to the nearest village, demanded hospitality, which was freely granted.

I had not been in the hut more than ten minutes, when my olfactories were greeted with an extremely loathsome smell. I asked the reason, and was told that it proceeded from the dead body of my host's mother, who had been out of the world for a week or more, and who was not yet buried. It is the custom of these people, not to commit the corpse to the earth, as long as it will hold together. The atmosphere was so stifling, that I was compelled to walk out. Whilst in the open air I was surprised to see a man with the corpse on his shoulders, which he deposited on a pile of turf. He next placed some ornaments near it, covered it with stones, and left it thus, till a more solemn interment took place.

The wife of one of our neighbors had presented her husband with twins, and the third day after the event I was especially invited to see these additions to the community. The father, who was a man of wealth and consideration, had two huts. The inner was occupied by his wife and her attendants. The outer was filled with the doctor, a priest, and some friends. My advent was not unexpected, and when I entered the inmates of the room saluted me with great courtesy. A pail of water was placed near the window, and one of the babies was brought from the inner hut. There was a pause which was broken by the priest commencing a solemn chant, in which the others joined. The infant was then seized and plunged into the water. The following sentences were repeated in a loud voice; "We devote thee to the powers of evil, and hope, by thy destruction, to pacify the malevolent spirits." I could bear no more, but hastily quitted the hut, notwithstanding the remark, "take care, he put obi on you." The

people of this, and the surrounding districts, have a superstition in the case of twins, that if both the children are permitted to live. The mother will surely die. I indeed saw a woman who had the courage to break this frightful law. Both she, and the children lived; but this was considered, as a piece of extraordinary luck, and which might never happen again.

The natives also allege, that the children thus sacrificed, and all those who die under eight years, are converted into the love God, the diminutive parrot I have before mentioned. I was exceedingly anxious to visit the great waterfall. When I hinted my intentions, a party was formed, and we set out in a canoe, drifting down the turbid yellow current, at the rate of five miles an hour. The scenery became bolder, the current more rapid, the distant booming of the cataract was audible, and the rapids swelled, and became very dangerous. Attaching the canoe to the shore, we held a council, as to our future destination, and it was decided, that we should camp out. The fires were kindled a chicken killed, and one of the men caught a lizard, which he pronounced delicious, but which, I could not bring myself to taste. We heard the cry of a leopard, bnt no hunter, will ever attack that beast in the dark, as it then has decidedly the advantage, and the man's death is almost certain. I did not feel any anxiety, as I knew that the flames would frighten off all wild beasts of every description, and the night passed tranquilly.

The day was beautiful as if it had been created expressly for the occasion. Flowers of all hues, and emitting the most exquisite fragrance, sparkled with dew. Green and gold lizards, whose skins shone in the sun like gems, timidly stole across the path. Birds of the most varied plumage, flitted gaily from bough to bough. The tall trees waved in the breeze, and the wind softly whispered among the leaves. My feet were rather bruised, but one of my friends had not forgotten me, and produced a pair of leopard sksn sandals with wooden soles. Thus equipped, we started. After proceeding for about three miles, the character of the country was entirely changed. The place we had just left, was comparatively open. Here the forest was so dense, that though it was scarcely midday, it was rather dark. The richness of the soil was attested by the tall and splendid palms, the golden bannanas hanging in the richest clusters, and the wild pine-apple, which offered its delicious fruit.

I looked for traces of animals, but it was evident, that this solitude, was rarely broken, by either man or beast. Huge flocks of parrots of all sizes, from the common gray variety, so well known in Europe; down to the tiny love God. This last bird is a perfect living gem. In size, it is rather less, than an English sparrow, I have mentioned elsewhere the priestly superstition attached to it. The bee-bird, and the pride of the African forests, nestled in the trees. I did not see an insect, and that was exceedingly uncommon. I did not perceive any snakes, though I had a dread, that one might start up, and with its rude hissing disturb my illusion. The whole scene dawned upon me rather as the vision of a poet, than an actual reality. The trees were connected by vines of the deepest green, bearing flowers of white, purple, and scarlet. Even the huge granite builders, which constantly met the eye, were robed in the most gorgeous crimson lichens. The heaths were magnificent, and of all colors. I could have loitered for hours in this Elysium, but my companions were anxious to proceed, and after walking a mile farther, we came upon the object of our search. But words are inadequate to portray this great masterpiece of nature. All the waters in this part of the world, seem to have been collected in one vast resevoir where they seethed and surged, as if heated by some invisible fires. A huge mass of rock, formed a base, over which the flood poured at an elevation of one hnndred and fifty feet. The water was of the purest white, and dashed over the muddy rocks till it was churned into a deep brown. No fish can live in these waters. My eyes rested on the wide expense, and I was silent, at the grandeur of the sight. My attention was aroused, and I was recalled to myself, by the violent gesticulations of my companions, as they stood in a group by themselves. I was curious to see what was the matter, and approached the water's edge. A crocodile was there struggling with the current, his eyes were open, and his jaws extended to their utmost width. Though he twisted and turned, he could do nothing; the water was too strong; he was swept away, and we saw no more of him. The water, which fell over the rocks was clear as crystal; that in the stream was of the deepest green. The rocks near the fall were of a grandeur and size, that beggar all description.

The sun, as it shone, drew from the water, all the colors of the rainbow. The ferns in the immediate vicinity, did not differ from

those, I had seen in Europe, and some parts of Asia. We returned the same way we came, and I added some rare specimens to my collection of birds.

This sight more than repaid me for all the trouble I had taken. No white man had yet seen the fall, or rested in the magnificent grove on the way. Shakespeare himself in all the magnificence of his genius, could not have conceived a more fitting spot for the gambols of Titania, Oberon, and their fairy train. We returned to the encampment about midnight, and as we could not secure any specimens, I would not have a gun fired, the sweet silence of the place, should not be disturbed. In this enchanting spot, I remained the whole of the following day and part of the next. I hoped to track some game, but my expectations were fruitless. I heard that the Ashongo village not far distant presented curious scenes for the traveller, and thither, myself and my retinue, "wended our way." A great misfortune befel me, my sandals had disappeared, and my shoes but ill supplied their place. In one day I wore out a pair; the soles dropped off, and the uppers were reduced to shreds. To add to our calamities, the rain fell in sheets accompanied by thunder and lightning. The storm lasted three hours. Day at last broke, and we pursued our dismal journey. No one was prepared for the change which met us on all sides. The soil was barren, and we saw no traces of animal life. Not even the smallest bird broke the silence with its cries.

A few plaintains, here and there, reminded us that vegetation had not ceased.

Three days were thus consumed, and we were almost reduced to our last plaintain. I bade one of the men mount the tallest tree, and try if he could behold any trace of either man or beast. The reply was a desponding negative. Still I was not discouraged, or at least, I would not let them see my frame of mind. I told them cheerfully, and with the most unconcerned air, in the world, that all would soon be right, and that we should speedily arrive at our desired haven. In three days, we had made sixty-five miles. I now began to despair, and admit to myself, that the hopes of anything better were exceedingly small, and that death of the worst kind was staring us in the face. My shoes were completely worn out and the rags I tore from other parts of my dress afforded an indifferent substitute. Every step was marked with blood, the stream above, by which we passed, and where I got a foot bath,

afforded me some relief. Still we pushed on, though the shoes hourly became worse. A monkey, boa constrictor and some birds were shot, which gave the men food, and encouraged them to proceed further. At last weary, and perfectly exhausted in both body and mind I fell; the ground reeled before me. I rose, but again sunk on the earth. The wildest visions floated before me. Elephants led out the hippopotamus, and danced a rough quadrille; while crocodiles and alligators uttered the most dismal howls by way of accompaniment. Gorillas waltzed by me, and the apes in the trees grinned approbation at their evolutions. While a quantity of leopards and tigers in the back ground, were playing at billiards.

Then the scene changed, and I thought I was in the midst of a splendid ball-room, surrounded by all the elite of Europe, and seated between the emperor of France, and the president of the United States. I thought I was recounting my adventures. All then was chaos and when I next recovered my senses, I was on the ground, while two negroes bathed my head, and used all the means in their power to restore animation. I was dozing and partially opened my eyes. I heard the cry of a gorilla, and saw a fight, but was too weak, to participate in it. The men killed the animal, and ate the flesh but I could not taste it. My companions, could scarcely wait, till it was cold, but tore it limb from limb, and greedily devoured it. They had not however been unmindful of me. Some parrots were cleansed of their intestines, wrapped in leaves, buried in the earth, and a fire kindled. A few plaintains were also found, and the delicate food acted as a charm. I was now ready to go on, but the want, of shoes was a great drawback, and what to do was a matter on which no one could resolve. I then proposed that some two or three should go as a kind of delegation to the next village, and make known my wants. A universal negative was at once pronounced. I was a powerful spirit, and if they left me, they should die. I was higher than they, and could do any thing I pleased; once away, it would be all over. It then seemed, that I was to be a prisoner. The rags, and relics of my shoes. would not carry me ten paces.

The senior huntsman put his ear to the ground, and exclaimed, "I hear something," motioned to the men, and concealed themselves in the thickets. Doubts were soon changed into certainties. The

hum of the bee-bird was distinctly audible, and four antelopes next came on the scene. The men rushed out of their hiding places and fired. The shots were harmless. But the animals were surrounded, and escape was prevented. Anxious to be in the fight, I hobbled to a tree, supported myself against it, gave the signal, and all fired at once. All the antelopes were killed, and in fine, the camp was a place of the greatest activity.

I was now perfectly well, and the march was resumed at the rate of twenty miles a day; always stopping at noon for a siesta. The smaller game was more plentiful, and though no new varieties presented themselves, we did not want for food of all kinds. The streams abounded with fish, which were readily caught by the men. At last we reached the chief town of the Isogot, where I rested a week, and began to feel homesick. The people lavished upon me all sorts of attentions, and spared no pains to please me. One mother, whose child's life, I saved by the timely administration of a few grains of calomel, made me a complete suit of leopard skin from "tip to toe," elegantly tanned, and nicely lined with grass cloth. Another ingeniously constructed some goatskin leggings, after some sketches I made. The chief of the tribe, who was a man of considerable natural ability actually made me an overcoat of the same. This last was invaluable. This kind people pressed me to remain, assuring me, that I should want for nothing, if I would make my home with them. But my task was completed; I had seen every thing; I had penetrated further into the country than any other European, and wished again to reside in the abodes of civilization. On the evening before my departure, I was entertained at a banquet.

Some loose memoranda, and sketches were discovered after the journal was in the hands of the printer, and which as they have no date, I lay before the reader, as they were found; and none, but a traveller can experience the constant difficulty experienced in keeping a record of all the progress we made, and the days journey and proceedings. In the first place, I was never free from intruders. Some of the natives had never seen a white man before, and were in perpetual admiration of all his surroundings, even my shoes and stockings, or feet cases, as they were

commonly called, did not escape the severest scrutiny, and the closest examination; as to my musical boxes, and other small curiosities, such as burning and magnifying glasses, they were never out of their hands, and even while writing I was surrounded by an unceasing stream of admirers, who rarely, or to speak more correctly never left me; my penmanship, was as great a curiosity as the rest.

After we had encamped for the night, and were lazily stretched on the ground with our pipes, the natives told me of a cascade which was not so large, but more beautiful, and though it was considerably out of our way, proposed that we should go. I must mention that the village carpenter of the place where I last sojourned, had made a canoe, which could be taken apart and put together, and which consequently was very light and portable; this was carried with us, the men bearing all the rest of our luggage, and I would advise travellers to be burdened with as little luggage as possible, as it is a great annoyance. The journey was not at all inviting, an immense and pathless tract almost destitute of vegetation, save some patches of the wild pine-apple, stretched before us. The loud cry of an animal was distinctly audible, but no more. Suddenly I heard a noise as of neighing and prancing of mules, and beheld what is very rarely seen in Equatorial Africa, and what never came under my notice again. This was a herd of zebras. Climbing into a tall tree, I perceived feeding before me, a company of these animals, on the first herbage I had seen for several miles; my heart bounded within me, as I counted them, they were just even in number. All these animals were of the most elegant proportions, black, white, and occasionally a tinge of yellow. They would sometimes raise their heads from the ground, and snuff the air, galloping from side to side, throwing themselves on the ground, and playing all sorts of antics. This animal though well adapted for draught has been pronounced almost indomitable, and when in captivity neither kindness nor stripes seem to have any effect. He snaps and growls at his keeper, after he has attended him for years, as if he were a stranger, and will at all times, bite the hand that feeds him. In this respect, the zebra differs from the cat tribe, which have a selfish affection for all who minister to their wants.

To surround them was impossible, as our numbers were too small, and a sharp gallop of a few moments would put the herd out

of our reach. We therefore resolved, to aim at some particular individuals and those secured, the rest might escape. I was the more inclined to pursue this policy, as though the zebra is not often seen in Europe, still specimens have been carried there, and in its internal structure this animal does not differ from the rest of its tribe. Three fine males were singled out, and we fired, the effect on the herd was instantaneous, all fled rapidly with a quick gallop. Fear had so increased their natural speed, that in a few seconds, those who could escape had vanished. Their three wounded companions lay on the ground, snorting and turning uneasily from side to side, but soon breathed their last. I had now three fine skins, which must be instantly prepared or they would rot. My arsenic and other materials were speedily produced, and, as soon as the flesh, was separated from the bones, the men prepared it in different manners. Two who were particularly adroit, searched for herbs, and small roots. They soon discovered some little bulbs and vegetables, with whose use, they seemed acquainted. With these materials, some small birds, and a part of the zebra's flesh, they made a potage a la Meg Merrilies, of which I had no objection to partake. Two of the boys erected a spit, on which they suspended the meat before the flames, and superintended the process, basting it the while, occasionally throwing in some handsfull of a plant abounding in the vicinity, and which has the smell and taste of sorrel; salt was added in moderate quantities, as this substance is dear in all parts of Africa, except on the coast, and in the course of half an hour, the dinner was pronounced ready. The flesh of the zebra, is like well tasted beef with a wild flavor. The dinner was exceedingly relished by all. It was night ere we finished, and we erected tents out of the materials we had.

An easy walk of about six hours, brought us to the waterfall, and nature seems to have exhausted herself in production of the most charming spot in that part of Africa. The ground was covered with the most brilliant carpet of flowers of all possible colors, from the richest scarlet, to the palest pink. The tallest and straitest trees, were connected by flowering vines, and yet it was not dark. The light was agreeably tempered, and the sun passing through this charming screen, was robbed of a great portion of his intensity. All the birds, I have yet seen in that region were perched on the trees, and kept up a constant chatter, and the cascade exquisitely finished the picture.

The stream was broad, and very deep, and the water, which flowed over immense blocks of granite, was of a rich amber, and broke into foam. This was not so grand a sight, as the other, but was nevertheless exceedingly beautiful; the boat was soon put together, and the negroes pushed her at an exceedingly rapid rate, among the troubled waters. It was a perilous sight to behold the frail little skiff, rocking about in so strong a current, now riding on the top of the falls, now rapidly descending. But the little craft was well steered, and after a two hours sport, the men came safely on shore. They are accustomed to these boats, and accidents rarely occur. I had hoped to meet a hippopotamus, but the water was not still enough, and I sat till sunset, sketching the scenery, and lost in admiration at the spectacle before me, and it was fully midnight before the camp was hushed to repose. The next day, while making some arrangements for drawing, I was about to give an order for something I wished done, when I saw the man to whom I was speaking, shake as if with cold, and I was at a loss to understand what was the matter, I turned round, and saw what must have blanched my cheeks, a huge serpent coiled round the trunk of a tree, with open mouth and brilliant eyes, ready to make the fatal spring. The others saw it too, and fled, as if pursued by an advancing army; the eyes of the reptile glittered like diamonds, and the scales rivalled the sapphire, emerald and topaz in splendor. I was not at all embarassed, as I very well knew that the man in front would attract all his attention, and that I could very easily approach him from behind. I took a very sure aim, the serpent was shot in the back, and prevented from doing any further mischief. This reptile was fifteen feet long, and the head and body projected, about three feet from the tree. If he had caught the negro by the feet, or inserted his fangs into the fleshy part of the leg, it would have been a fatal case. The wretched sufferer would have lingered in the greatest torments till released by death. The eyes become inflamed, the vessels of the head are overcharged with blood. An extreme lassitude is felt over all the body, which after a time swells. The nerves throb, and there is no part free from the most aching pain.

This serpent was skinned, and the flesh and fat carefully set aside. This last is esteemed as a sovereign specific in all affections of the limbs. The meat was devoured by the negroes, but I could not bring myself to touch it. One of my companions who was exceed-

ingly well versed in sports told me, that he once witnessed a fight between a large parrot and a snake, and that the former was victorious. Each time that the snake attempted to bite, the bird clawed him, and used, to his no small disadvantage, her sharp beak and talons. When the contest was decided in her favor, she clapped her wings and screamed triumphantly. Serpents in this part of Africa have many foes. Some birds are fond of their eggs, and have a particular tact, in discovering their hiding places. The owls consider a small snake as a particularly delicate article of food, and do not scruple to devour such a dainty bit, wherever they can find it. The small squirrel of Equatorial Africa has a great aversion for snakes of all kinds. Even the mighty boa, the terror of all animated nature is not free from his murderous assaults. The little animal watches, when the snake is asleep, and pouncing on the head, eats out the brains. Nothing can shake him off, and he remains, till his task is accomplished, and the snake is dead. Late in the afternoon I saw one of these animals, which are almost as fleet as birds, descend upon a small and very venomous serpent. The reptile vainly, and in every possible manner, tried to escape, from his opponent, but fruitlessly; when the serpent was dead, the animal as if satisfied with its work, flew off, and did not attempt to use the remains as food. Snakes are considered as objects of religious veneration in all parts of Africa. The skin is an ornament, and the bones serve the priests and doctors in their incantations and ceremonies.

The crocodiles abound in vast numbers in these streams, and, frequently are seen as long as twenty feet. The jaws, which are tremendous, are furnished with immense teeth; musk is secreted in large quantities under the fore paws. These creatures are very powerful, and when in the water, are always on the alert for their prey. Like the tiger, when they once have tasted human flesh, prefer it to any other kind of food. Both the Egyptians and Africans consider the crocodiles as deities, and in some instances pay them divine honors. When one of these reptiles are killed some flowers are thrown in the water, as a kind of expiation, and other religious rites performed. The Africans have a curious legend about the crocodile, which is worth relating. There was a powerful king who waged war with all his neighbors, and who was under the protection of a mighty spirit, who had been his father's friend, but whom he had never yet seen. His huts were filled with

the skins of all the tigers and lions, he had killed. His servants could do all kinds of work, and he was rich beyond the most sanguine desires of most African kings. But yet he was not satisfied, and longed for two things. The nearest prince, had a large hunting ground, and a pretty daughter, and our king desired both. But though he generally contrived to gratify his wish, he was now at his wits ends how he should gain the land and the lady. The king his neighbour, would listen to no representations, accept no bribe, and would not give his daughter in marriage. In fact, there were sundry reports about the said prince in circulation, which did not tend at all to his credit. Some ill-tempered persons did say, (though this of course was a falsehood) that when one of his wives displeased him, he was in the habit of sending her on a mission to the other world.

One fact was plain, that there was a singular, and unaccountable mortality among the females of the royal family. One thing was, to say the least, exceedingly queer. These bodies would be seen one day in perfect health, and the next, disappear altogether, and no one knew where they had gone. So the young princess, who had a tender regard for her head, declined being his queen. The king might be slandered, the world was proverbially ill natured, but she was determined to keep on the safe side. She therefore turned her back on the ambassadors, would not look at the presents, and decisively said no; in this resolution she was sustained by her royal papa. But kings like other mortals are subject to misfortunes, and our royal damsel, princess though she was, did not escape the common fate of mankind. Some battles were lost, and the luckless prince fell into the hands of his enemy and rival. The fortunate king now had all he desired, the hunting ground was among his possessions, and the princess his wife. The young queen, who was a woman of both sense and spirit, concealed her sentiments, and kept, if all reports be true, a pretty tight reign on her spouse, whom she never the less cordially hated, though she made him believe, that she entertained an opposite opinion. Like most women of that age, she dabbled in magic, and was resolved to see what could be done to revenge her father's wrongs, and free herself from a man whom she detested. For this purpose she consulted one far more experienced than herself in the black art.

This magician resided in a cavern on the side of the hill. Thither the queen repaired at midnight. The sage after hearing

her complaint, gave her a box, with the injunction to deliver it to her lord, but with the request, that he was not to open it, till a certain time. If the command were not strictly kept, evil would befall him, and he and his subjects would rue the day, that he had been tempted to disobey the command. The king consented, took the box, and kept the promise most faithfully for a time. In a moment of indiscretion, he told the matter to a lady of the court. Stimulated by her curiosity, and being exceedingly enamored of her, he opened the box, and to his great surprise found only two eggs. The king was angry at the queen, as he thought she had trifled with him. In time however the eggs were hatched, and two young crocodiles made their appearance, from which all the others are descended. Years passed on, and the king when washing by the river's brink, was seized and devoured by one of the reptiles.

One morning as I had nothing particular to do, I sauntered down to the seaside and looked at the vessels there. Some were evidently by their build intended for the slave tradé, others was not so plain. A young man approached me, whose appearance was somewhat remarkable. This new acquaintance had not seen more than twenty summers. His complexion, which was originally of a clear brown, had been changed into a darker hue, by the sun's kisses. His eyes were black and piercing. His lips, which were of that brilliant scarlet so seldom seen except in Havana, when opened, disclosed teeth that might shame orient pearls in color and brilliancy. Full dutch pantaloons, a richly embroidered shirt, and a dark camlet jacket, completed his attire. Courteously raising the broad Panama hat, which protected him from the sun's rays, he said in excellent French.

"Will you not come on board my vessel; my name is Diegode Mendoza."

I bowed assent, and the captain, raising a silver bird-call hanging from a heavy gold chain, whistled long and loud.

A boat rowed by three men, dressed as Catalonian sailors came up, and we were soon on board the royal Isabella. A flag with the arms of Castile and Leon, flying at the peak, showed to what nation the vessel belonged.

The deck was exquisitely neat, not a rope was out of place; the rigging was black and smooth, and the brass shone like gold. The cabin was a master piece of elegance and comfort. A Parisian

belle might have envied its dainty equipments. A carpet with a ground strewed with bouquets covered the floor. The panelling and small doors, were of the richest foreign woods. Marble brackets supported statuettes, and two fine pictures evidently drawn by a master hand completed the ornaments.

A lunch was spread on the table on chased silver dishes, and we were enjoying segars of the finest and most costly brands, and a bottle of the best vintage, when we were suddenly interupted by a loud noise from above and the cries of hombre, hombre.

We hurried on deck, and there beheld a man struggling in the water between two foes. This individual as I afterwards learned belonged to an English vessel, and was bathing, when he perceived a shark approach him with open jaws, lined to their fullest extent with murderous teeth, and a keen greedy-looking eye. He saw his danger, and shouted loudly to his companions to come to his aid. A boat was lowered, and three men hastened to the assistance of their comrade, and instantly sheered between the fish and the man. The former was not discouraged, but was on the sailor's other side, whence he could not be dislodged, though blows were liberally showered upon him, and he was repeatedly assaulted with a lance. To add to the dangers which were already impending, one of the largest African eagles, sailed in the air above him, and was once so near that his wings rested on the man's head. But a loud huzza, accompanied with the firing of a pistol drove him away and the sailor was enabled to climb on board the boat, and thus escaped all the dangers threatening him.

While we had been watching the fight, a man came on board of the Royal Isabella. It must be confessed that his appearance was not very prepossessing. He was a tall gaunt native, and wore a battered white hat, faded blue pantaloons, a colored shirt, and a red coat, which had once been the property of some English officer. The captain received him most courteously, and introduced him as the king.

Dinner was served, composed of all that earth, air, and sea could afford; and his majesty showed that he duly appreciated his host's hospitality, by getting most royally drunk, and in that condition was carried to a state room, while I occupied another; but I could not sleep, and went on deck to enjoy the balmy and refreshing gales.

The sailors who had watched the contest between the man and

the shark, had thrown out a line or rather chain, baited with a large piece of pork; the effect desired was produced, the meat was eagerly swallowed, and the monster floundered on the deck, but it was resolved that he should not be examined till the next day, and the reader can imagine that I was up, as early as possible.

The mouth, which is the main point with this fish, was furnished with several rows of sharp, saw-like teeth, which could inflict the most deadly wounds, and the shark, when the prey is once secured, never quits his hold. The flesh, which is relished by some was converted into cutlets, the skin and skeleton were generously given me by captain Mendoza, which I shall keep as a memento of my visit, which was not without its alloy. A vessel, bearing the Portugese flag, and which from her appearance was undoubtedly a slaver, had been detained for several days along side by a head wind. A short thickset man, with so dark a complexion, that he might have been taken for a mulatto, was on the deck, swinging a huge rattan with which he sometimes rapped the boards. Suddenly he blew a shrill blast, with a silver whistle, and a boy came in answer to his summons.

The lad, heard what he had to say, and went to the galley, whence he returned with the cook, bringing between them a large trough which they deposited on the deck. Then with the assistance of the man on deck, the hatchway was lifted, and a crowd of half naked Africans rushed on deck from below. All these men and women had their heads shaved, and were very black. A deadly effluvia came from the place they had just quitted. All were ravished with joy at the sight of the sun, and the fresh air, which blew upon them, and they rubbed their heads with the greatest pleasure. One man, whose features were straighter than those of his companions, when he saw the "golden haired king of day," fell upon his knees, and evidently adored that great luminary. All eagerly advanced to the troughs, but some blows, which were dealt with no unsparing hand, convinced them, that they must obey. Glancing piteously at the rattan, they cowered to the other side of the deck, whence they were permitted to approach their food in compaines of twelve. When they had eaten as much as they desired, they resumed their former places, and waited till their companions were served, and had fully satisfied their appetites. After the children, (and there were nearly a hundred, of these unhappy little wretches) had eaten, the whole were forced to dance. Some apparently enjoyed this miserable recreation, others were sleepy and refused to move. None escaped the eye of the vigilant superintendent. Those who entered into the spirit of the dance, and were, or at least seemed for the moment light-hearted, he commended. Harsh words, and coercive measures were adopted towards the refractory. Some broke out into wild songs, which were not destitute of a sort of melody. Whilst I was examining these slaves, Mendoza came on deck, from the

cabin, and stood near me. But I had been so engrossed with the scene before me, that I did not notice their approach, till Mendoza said:

"That vessel is bound for Rio de Janeiro, with a cargo, she generally makes one trip a year that pays well."

"Yes," said the king "I sell him dem slaves, and den he pay well, you come my house, I sell you plenty. You come soon pronty. I like all de whites, and dey like me." His majesty generally used a sort of patois of Spanish, Portuguese, negro, and a little English.

As he spoke, he extended his hand as a mark of friendship, then sprung into the boat and disappeared. In a short time I followed his example and was speedily at my rooms. On the way I purchased a specimen of the bird, I had seen attacking the sailor. This is one of the largest birds I ever saw, and in size far excels the condor, and surpasses the far-famed American eagle in fleetness. It is exclusively confined to Equatorial Africa, and is not seen elsewhere. It is equally at home, on shore or at sea. If on land, it perches on the tallest trees, and pounces on the animals as they pass, and when they least expect it. I was a witness of one of these encounters.

I had mounted one of the highest trees, and was engaged sketching when a full grown leopardess, passed and rubbed herself, (as is the habit of those creatures) against the trees. She suddenly uttered a savage growl. I saw the eagle on her head, and the blood flowing profusely. The beast was at her wits end, to know what to do. But she could not dislodge so powerful an opponent, though she made repeated trials. The beak, and claws were at her throat, and before many minutes had elapsed, she was fainting from loss of blood. This interval was improved by the bird, in tearing out her eyes, so that when she was again conscious, she was blind. He again resumed his attacks, and continued till the leopardess was dead. I thought I could then secure the skin, and quitted my perch. But the eagle, as if divining my intentions faced me undauntedly, and kept a strong hold on his prey. I was determined to wait, and see the result. The bird gormandized, till it could eat no more, then disappeared for parts unknown, and left me the undisturbed possession of the prize. The soft parts were gone, and the eyes had vanished as completely, as if removed by a surgeon, but the skin was entire. The jugular had been severed. Some of the natives assert, that when this species of eagle kills, after his hunger is satisfied, the rest is buried for use on some other occasion, and that these birds have been repeatedly seen digging in the earth. But the story lacks foundation. The condor and most of the hawk tribes, have the same practice. One thing about its habits is more certain; that it attacks men, even when not pressed by hunger. In several instances, this bird has been known to follow vessels for the sake of the offal.

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